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# Latin America Report

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30 June 1983

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No. 2701

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## BRIEFS

**DROP IN OIL PRICES**--A slackening of the world demand for oil has led to a welcome easing of Belize fuel prices. The new prices, which came into effect on the first of May, provide a three to five-per-cent drop which has been welcome by the motoring public but is cause for considerable dissatisfaction among the country's service station dealers. Reductions of 12 cents on the gallon now put the price of premium gasoline at \$3.23 a gallon and regular gasoline at \$3.13 a gallon. A fourteen cent reduction on kerosene leaves the new price at \$2.29 a gallon and an eleven cent reduction on diesel puts that fuel at \$2.61. Service station dealers are upset because they have been trying for the last ten years to get a raise in the amount of commission they are allowed to earn selling motor fuels. The tight controls on fuel prices only allow them to make between 2% and 3% mark-up on their sales, and dealers claim this is not nearly enough to cover the higher costs of labour and service. [Text] [Belize City THE REPORTER in English 15 May 83 p 12]

**OIL EXPLORATION LEASES**--Six petroleum companies have received licenses from the government of Belize to look for oil in and around the country. The Minister of Natural Resources in the May 14 issue of the GAZETTE lists the companies by name. They are Spartan Petroleum-Company (in association with Seneca Resources Corporation and Prairie Producing Company Belize Limited), City Service Belize Inc., D & S Exploration Ltd., Katana Belize Limited, Telstar Energy Corporation and Black Lake Petroleum Company. Meanwhile reliable reports say that a mining outfit representing Gulf Oil and Shell are getting ready to sink two medium depth wells in the Belmopan area. The wells will go to a depth of 27,000 feet, these reports say. One of the wells is to be sited very near to Belmopan in an area known as "the Dump". The other is to be drilled on the old Melhado property across from the airstrip on the other side of the highway. [Text] [Belize City THE REPORTER in English 22 May 83 p 1]

CSO: 3298/637

## POTENTIAL FOR HYDROELECTRIC, OIL RESOURCES STUDIED

Santiago TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 2 Jun 83 p 14

[Text] The country's economically developable hydroelectric resources total nearly 18,000 megawatts, of which only 1,400, or 8 percent, are in operation at present. This information comes from the text "Efficient Use of Energy in Chile," which was given to the School of Physical Sciences and Mathematics of the University of Chile.

The book was received by Dean Claudio Anguita, who explained that these are the conclusions of a roundtable discussion in which various specialists participated.

For example, it is noted that in 1981, 40 percent of the total energy used in Chile was produced by imported oil, which entailed an expenditure of about \$900 million a year in foreign reserves. On the other hand, the nationally produced oil consumed, totaling a similar amount, is part of a non-renewable energy resource, and the annual investment in facilities for the production, transmission and use of energy is estimated at nearly \$500 million per year.

With regard to the existing energy resources in the country, it is indicated that in the case of coal, estimated reserves are about 5.3 billion tons, with greater abundance of the kind known as subituminous, in the southern end of the country.

As for petroleum, the proven and presumed reserved are located in the region of Magallanes, which is the most intensely prospected region. The reserves currently being exploited supply 50 percent of the country's crude requirements, and it is estimated that that percentage can be maintained throughout the decade of the eighties with existing reserves.

8926

CSO: 3348/437

TEACHERS UNION, STUDENT GROUP, FNM, GOVERNMENT AT LOGGERHEADS

Threat To Fire Archer

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 9 May 83 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Excerpt] Bahamas Union of Teachers president Leonard Archer has been "marked for destruction" and is to be fired from his post as principal of RM Bailey High School, the union said in a press statement issued Sunday.

Mr Archer told THE TRIBUNE today he received two letters from the Ministry of Education indicating that he would be fired for making public statements on political issues.

Should this happen, he will fall one year short of being able to collect a pension for 30 years service in the teaching profession.

The union viewed the move by the Ministry as one persuaded by spite "since he has only one year left before he is eligible for retirement."

Union Response

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 9 May 83 p 1

[Excerpt] THE BAHAMAS Union of Teachers has responded with "alarm" and "anger" to reports that their president, Leonard Archer, is to be fired from his job as principal of RM Bailey High School

The union issued a statement yesterday warning that "it will not stand by idly in this latest attack on our president," as members regard this action of the Government "as a threat to the very existence of the union."

The statement said that Leonard Archer has led the union in many battles "and members now stand ready to defend vigorously and selflessly our president and union."

Student Party's Reaction

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 10 May 83 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text] THE STUDENT National Action Party (SNAP) warned today that it would not "tolerate" the dismissal of Bahamas Union of Teachers president Leonard Archer as principal of R M Bailey High School.

They scheduled an emergency meeting for 7 pm at the House of Labour tomorrow to discuss "what plan of action" to take should Mr Archer be fired.

"Dear Mr Archer, you are not alone, we will always be with you," a statement released by SNAP executives Dennis Dames, Allan Neely and Michael Fountain said.

They were responding to a statement by the union that the Ministry of Education is moving to fire Mr Archer after 29 years of service in the teaching profession.

The Ministry of Education remained tight-lipped today over statements that Mr Archer would be fired for violating General Orders by publicly commenting on political issues. The permanent secretary, Gurth Archer, was "not available" to take a phone call from The Tribune on the matter.

"This kind of action will not be tolerated by SNAP because we feel that the students are already politically aware of what is going on in this supposedly democratic society," the students' statement said.

SNAP was responsible for February's massive demonstra-

tion by students of C C Sweeting High School who were agitating for better conditions. Mr Archer was principal of C C Sweeting before his transferral to R M Bailey last September.

The three SNAP executives took the view that Government is trying to victimize their former principal because he has been outspoken on a number of public issues.

"SNAP is in full agreement with any course of action taken by the BUT in support of A Leonard Archer," the statement said.

The three executives said they would "now and for evermore" blame the PLP and FNM for the "dismal state of education in the Bahamas today."

"There have been five black Ministers of Education since black majority rule," the statement said.

"Firstly was the Hon AD Hanna who, according to the records, did nothing to enhance education in the Bahamas. Next was Cecil Wallace Whitfield, now chairman of the FNM, who was noted for his stubbornness, inability to negotiate and his love for costly school designs.

"Succeeding Mr Whitfield was the Rev Carlton Francis who established C C Sweeting in 1971 and is remembered as the best of all the black Ministers of Education," the statement said.

It said that general inefficiency set in the Ministry under Livingstone Coakley (now Minister of Health) "and such inefficiency has clearly continued right up to the present day under the Hon Darrell Rolle."

"It is interesting to note that while the Minister of Education has addressed the nation, the FNM's 'shadow minister' has said and done nothing. Therefore, SNAP will not regard you, the FNM, as the leading opposition, but as an organization that only wants to jump on the band wagon to gain political mileage," the statement said.

It concluded that while the PLP neglected to repair the schools, "the FNM neglected to press the issue of school repairs."

"We, the members of SNAP, were correctly identified as warriors of steel and amazons of visions by our great leader," the statement said.

#### FNM Warning, Reply to SNAP

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 11 May 83 pp 1, 13

[Text]

THE FREE National Movement today warned Government to beware of the possible consequences of dismissing BUT president and RM Bailey headmaster Leonard Archer.

Taking issue with a statement released by three executive members of the Students National Action Party (SNAP) yesterday, which included the FNM in attacks on the PLP government, and in which SNAP had said it would "now and forevermore" blame the PLP and the FNM for the dismal state of education in the Bahamas today.

In its statement SNAP said that while the Minister of Education had addressed the nation, the FNM's Shadow Minister had said and done nothing.

"Therefore SNAP will not regard you, the FNM, as the leading opposition, but as an organization that only wants to jump on the bandwagon to gain political mileage," SNAP said, adding that while the PLP neglected to repair schools, the FNM neglected to press the issue of school repairs.

Replied the FNM:

"The FNM has long taken note of the fact that just about every BUT statement critical of government has also attempted to include the FNM in the blame for the state of education in the country and the physical state of the nation's schools. We are also aware that this line is pushed by one or two executives of the union for purposes better known to themselves. Despite this," the

FNM said, "we have given our full support to the union in its struggle for better pay and better conditions and we have refrained from responding to these attacks."

The FNM vowed that they would not stand by silently and let a few people mislead the union and the students. They said they will continue to fight for reform of education in the Bahamas and will continue to support the BUT in all of its legitimate enterprises.

"We will support orderly demonstrations by the students to bring matters to the attention of the government and we will support the right of Mr Archer and all other union leaders to speak out in pursuit of the legitimate objectives of the union."



The FNM said that the special concern of the FNM for education and for the BUT was also amply demonstrated by the fact that in the last election their party offered nominations to a number of teachers, some former BUT officers.

"We are saddened that our friendly feelings towards the union have not been reciprocated by some union executives." The party said it believed that in "all the existing circumstances, and considering the nature of the allegations made against him, it would be wicked for the PLP to victimize Mr Archer and to dismiss him just one year short of his being able to qualify for a pension. We warn the government to beware of the possible consequences of such an action. We will not, however, stand by silently and let a few people mislead the union and the students," the FNM release said.

In response to the statements made by SNAP the FNM said it has never been the government of the Bahamas and is in no way responsible for the dereliction of school buildings and the failure of the education system to meet the needs of the nation.

"In fact this is one of those issues upon which the FNM has steadfastly criticized the government over the years. The fact that the PLP government has paid little attention to us should be fully understood by the BUT since their pleadings have also fallen on the deaf ears of the same government.

"We have made countless statements at public meetings, in the press and in Parliament urging the government to take measures to improve the education system as well as the physical conditions of our schools. It is totally untrue that the Shadow Minister of Education, CA Smith has said and done nothing while the PLP Minister of Education has addressed the nation on education problem," the FNM said.

The release went on to say that Mr Smith, a former teacher, has spoken out in the House of Assembly at every opportunity. "He spoke at length and comprehensively during the debate on the Speech from the Throne and during the 1983 Budget debate. He has taken every opportunity since then to speak out. Unfortunately, because of the limitations of the daily press and deliberate

discrimination by ZNS, radio and TV, only a small portion of his statements have been published or broadcast. This is true, not only of education but also of other important national issues. The executives of BUT should be fully aware of this from their own experience," the FNM said.

They said also that not only has Mr Smith been quite vocal on this subject, but other FNM Parliamentarians as well. The release said that during the period of the student demonstrations FNM leader Kendal G L Isaacs and Yamacraw MP Janet Bostwick spoke out and visited a number of schools including C C Sweeting. Other FNM Parliamentarians also spoke out and visited many of the schools.

"In the House Blue Hills MP Arthur Foulkes challenged Education Minister Darrell Rolle on his claim that the Ministry had been giving priority to Primary schools. Mr Foulkes pointed out to the Minister that four buildings at Ridgeland Primary School were in a terrible state of repair. We are happy to note that those four buildings have been demolished and that three new buildings now stand in their place," the FNM said.

#### More BUT Support for Archer

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 12 May 83 p 1

[Text]

THE GRAND Bahama branch of the Bahamas Union of Teachers has telegraphed the Prime Minister to stop any plans the Ministry of Education might have to fire their president, Leonard Archer, as principal of R M Bailey High School.

The Grand Bahama branch is the fourth group to come out in support of Mr Archer since it was reported Monday that the Ministry was moving to fire Mr Archer for making political statements in violation of General Orders.

"We feel strongly that those Orders are a direct infringement upon the constitutional rights

and legal rights guaranteed under the Industrial Relations Act," the telegram sent by the Grand Bahama branch of the union said.

"We interpret the actions by the Minister of Education as a direct attack on free unions in a democracy."

And, the Grand Bahama branch warned, its members "stand ready and committed to do whatever is necessary to ensure that our constitutional rights and our labour laws are upheld for all individuals of the Bahamas."

The Grand Bahama branch invited the Prime Minister to intervene in the matter "to

correct the damage that has already been done and to avoid further deterioration of our young nation."

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Education has maintained a stony silence over the reports. The permanent secretary, Gurth Archer, would not take a Tribune phone call over the matter.

The main branch of the Bahamas Union of Teachers, the Student National Action Party (SNAP) and the FNM have all come out in support of Mr Archer, who has been in the teaching profession for 29 years.

## SNAP Internal Dissension

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 13 May 83 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text] A conflict has broken out between leaders of the Student National Action Party (SNAP) over whether the executive is being influenced by outside forces.

The leader of the group, Dennis Dames, says it isn't. His deputy, Lisa Thurston, says it is.

SNAP was formed by students of C C Sweeting High in February to demonstrate for better school conditions. But, over the past month it has turned from a pressure group to a political movement, declaring war on both the ruling PLP and the opposition FNM.

And questions are being asked as to whether SNAP has been infiltrated by outside forces.

"No, SNAP was never controlled by an outside person," Mr Dames said.

But, said Miss Thurston: "Some of the executives are letting people outside influence them and they are not thinking for themselves. From what I see now, they're going to be political. I don't agree with that. I hope they will change their minds and continue to carry on with the good work, the fight for employment and anything and everything that affects the youth." Miss Thurston declined to identify the outside forces(s).

The conflict started brewing three weeks ago when a statement purportedly made by SNAP appeared in the morning paper, claiming that students who were suspended for leaving school to demonstrate had begun an anti-tourist campaign. The statement said that the suspended students would "be assigned to the airport, docks and strategic areas of Bay Street to carry out a verbal, anti-tourist campaign." The statement was made following a demonstration by students for jobs when they leave school.

Lisa Thurston immediately disassociated herself from the statement. There was no response from any of the other executives. It is not known who drafted the statement.

Since then, Dennis Dames, who always referred to himself as president, started calling himself chairman. Allan Neely, who Miss Thurston preceded as first vice president, says he is first vice-chairman. Miss Thurston says there is no chairman or vice-chairman. She said Mr Dames is president and she is first vice-president.

Mr Neely is thought to be closely associated with political activist Rodney Moncur. Mr Moncur claims his only interest in SNAP is as a former student of C C Sweeting. However, he has been retained as an "adviser"



by SNAP and is always at the scene of demonstrations. It is also known that he has been deeply involved with some of SNAP's strategy.

Another silent supporter has been Sir Randol Fawkes, "father of trade unionism" in the Bahamas. Sir Randol has been allowing the students to use his House of Labour on Wulff Road. He has said on more than one occasion that he would like to see a labour government.

THE TRIBUNE has received a number of press statements from SNAP which are conflicting in style. The last statement, made Wednesday in support of Bahamas Union of Teachers president Leonard Archer, who was reportedly to be fired from his post as principal, has two distinct styles.

One section contains poor grammar. "We feel," part of it reads, "that the stand the government is taking is only to victimize and discriminate a reputitious man as Mr Archer."

The other part is well written and whoever drafted it has a good knowledge of political history. It named the five Ministers of Education under black majority rule.

Mr Dames said the style was different because the second part of the release was hastily written in order to meet THE TRIBUNE's deadline.

The statement said that Carlton Francis "is remembered as the best of all black Ministers of Education."

Asked by THE TRIBUNE why this was so, Mr Dames responded, "Well, we felt he did the most."

"What do you mean by that?"

"Well, he seemed to be the one who cared the most," 17-year-old Mr Dames said.

"Why did he care the most?"

"Well, he just wasn't another minister for the sake of being minister."

The statement said that "Cecil Wallace Whitfield, now chairman of the FNM, was noted for his stubbornness, inability to negotiate and his love for costly school designs."

Asked which costly school designs the statement was referring to, Mr Dames, who was at work, said: "I can't comment about that on the phone."

Pressed for an answer, he said, "It is a deep thing."

Still pressed for an answer, he said, "I think you're talking about Uriah McPhee and Stephen Dillet."

Asked about Mr Whitfield's stubbornness, he said he could no longer talk on the phone. Mr Dames suggested that THE TRIBUNE meet with him and Allan Neely at C C Sweeting this morning. He never showed up.

Another person, who has been seen around SNAP members, is Carlton Robinson, a columnist with the weekly socialist tabloid, THE VANGUARD. Mr Robinson was at C C Sweeting during the students demonstrations in February, urging the students to "go out." However, SNAP appears to have disassociated itself from him.

Miss Thurston said she agreed with SNAP's statement supporting Mr Archer, but thought it was unfair to blame Mr Whitfield for two schools that were built under the PLP administration.

Archer: BUT Not Political

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 14 May 83 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Excerpt] LEONARD ARCHER, outspoken president of the Bahamas Union of Teachers, assured members at an emergency meeting last night that the union will never commit its support to any political party and vowed to fight Government's threat to discipline him to the bitter end.

"The BUT, as an organization, has never supported any political party," Mr Archer told over 200 teachers attending the meeting at the union's Bethel Avenue headquarters.

Mr Archer, principal of R M Bailey, facing dismissal by Government, said that individual members of the BUT or its executives may have supported

a political party. That, he said, was their right.

"The BUT will never commit itself to supporting any political party," said Mr Archer at the meeting called to bring members up to date on a spate of letters he has recently received from the Ministry of Education threatening to initiate disciplinary action against him.

In his address, following numerous pledges of support and calls for unity from executive members who preceded him to the podium, Mr Archer, who is one year away from a government pension, said that if the Government thinks that taking away his pension will silence him, they can take his pension and stuff it.

The 29-year teaching veteran said that if principals demanded their rights under the Education Act, there would be a real revolution in education in the Bahamas.

"I am prepared to fight this thing to the bitter end," declared Mr Archer, who is also Secretary-General of the Trade Union Congress. "I believe that right will prevail in the end and right is on our side."

"I invite you to join me in this fight to the bitter end," Mr Archer added.

Among other executives speaking at the meeting, chaired by BUT secretary general Haldane Chase, were Government High School Principal E J Bowe, Mrs Van Pyfrom Oldham and McDonald Rolle.

Archer: No Ties to Vanguard

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 14 May 83 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Excerpts] BAHAMAS UNION of Teachers president Leonard Archer has "a tremendous amount of sympathy for the socialist way of thinking," but he said he has never considered himself a socialist.

Mr Archer made this remark in an interview with The Tribune today in answer to rumours that he and the union have "leftist tendencies." The rumour is believed to have been started as a result of an

invitation from the union to former Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley to address the Teachers Conference in July.

Mr Archer said the union as an organization does not support any political party and has never done so.

"If I have anything to do with it, it never will," he added.

Mr Archer said any rumours that the union supports the socialist Vanguard Party are "a bunch of lies" and that union members, as individuals, have the right to support whomever they want.

"If we invited Seaga to address the Teachers Conference, would that mean that we're capitalists?" he asked.

"Michael Manley is first and foremost a trade unionist. Not only that, he's a damn good one. He's a brilliant man. He's written many books that are recognized worldwide."

Mr Archer said he would have thought that the people who are prepared to criticize Manley would welcome the chance to hear him. Mr Manley will be addressing the opening of the Teachers Conference on July 5.

### SNAP Denial of Political Links

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 17 May 83 pp 1, 12

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text] THE STUDENT National Action Party (SNAP) held a press conference yesterday to deny it is tied to any outside political organization.

SNAP was replying to an article in The Tribune last Friday linking the party to political activist Rodney Moncur. The Tribune has information showing that Mr Moncur, self-styled leader of Black Village, has been deeply involved in SNAP's strategy. The conference was held at Sir Randol Fawkes' House of Labour on Wulff Road.

Said SNAP in a prepared statement: "Reactionary political forces from day one have attempted to depoliticize our organization because they were threatened by the emergence of a new power element in the country. Those wicked forces then infiltrated SNAP so as to make certain SNAP will only oppose the laziness and incompetence of the PLP and overlook the laziness and incompetence of the FNM."

The statement, read by SNAP leader Dennis Dames, said that over the past few days it has been made clear "that the battle lines have been drawn by these threatening reactionary forces" which have suggested that "Sir Randol, Rodney Moncur of the Workers Party, Carlton Robinson of the Vanguard and top Bahamas Union of Teachers

executives are in control of SNAP."

"In the other camp, according to these reactionary forces, are grouped the PLP, the FNM and The Herald. Could they really be all together? Are they truly all the way? If so, SNAP declares war on them all and while they talk, we shall walk," the statement read by 17-year-old Dames said.

The statement said the "politically filthy forces" to which it referred "are successfully manipulating and misguiding our greatest female struggler and amazon in the student struggle."

"This has gone on to such an extent that this great amazon has lost her vision and is being led by the blind," the statement continued.

"At this point I will not publicly condemn this misguided amazon in the party, but I call on SNAP members and all free and progressive thinkers to rally around our original objectives; better education and jobs," Mr Dames said.

The "misguided amazon" to whom SNAP referred is presumably Lisa Thurston, who preceded Allen Neely as vice-president of SNAP during the C C Sweeting High student demonstrations in February. Mr Dames said yesterday that he is chairman of SNAP and Allen Neely is vice-president. He told

The Tribune that Mr Neely was always the vice-chairman. However, Mr Dames, who until recently carried the title president, referred to Miss Thurston as vice-president during all of the student demonstrations. Miss Thurston was absent from the conference yesterday. Mr Neely claimed she had been invited to the conference.

SNAP said it was formed in January to agitate for better educational conditions nationwide and to bring forcefully to the attention of the Government the unemployment problem and the need to provide thousands of jobs.

"From day one we have been political, having formed a party, having criticised the PLP and FNM, having marched for school repairs and having marched for jobs," the statement said.

Mr Dames said SNAP would like education at the College of the Bahamas to be free "to all poor children." SNAP also wants graduation to be restored at public schools and said that all high school students should be exposed for five years to the GCE O level syllabus so that "they will not be publicly and viciously ridiculed by a segment of the press." SNAP named as its secretary Leanna Pearce; treasurer, Veldalee Johnson and secretary-general/public relations officer, Michael Fountain.

Nassau THE HERALD in English 19 May 83 pp 1, 7

[Text]

**IT SHOULD BE CRYSTAL CLEAR** to everyone by now that A. Leonard Archer, President of The Bahamas Union of Teachers wants to be a martyr. Even members in his own union are beginning to realise that. Indeed one of them said so in a letter to the Editor of the Nassau Guardian yesterday morning.

**FOR A LONG TIME**, Archer led members of the BUT a merry dance. Unfortunately for Mr. Archer, however, and fortunately for some teachers, who have allowed themselves to be mesmerised by that fine Abaco hand, a member of the union has long seen through Archer's game plan. And he is moving resolutely to remove the scales of ignorance from the eyes of the other members of the union.

**THE REVELATIONS** made by this member have so stung Archer and his deputy Haldane Chase, that the former has vowed to expose the union member as soon as he has some more information. This could only turn into a full blown witch hunt. The last time we heard anything of this nature was when the Reverend Addison Turnquest went on his sissy hunt.

**THE MAIN THRUST** of Archer's contention obviously is that someone had enough courage to challenge the direction in which he seems to be steering the union. Arch-

er also says that the member of the union acted in contravention of the union's code of ethics.

**BUT**, countered this brave union member in yesterday's Guardian, "these are internal matters of The Bahamas Union of Teachers, which have had to be discussed publicly in the interest of achieving the credibility so necessary to our continued democratic survival."

**WE AGREE.** Indeed Mr. Archer could check with Arthur Foulkes, the FNM spokesman, who, when once embroiled in a controversy with Cecil Wallace-Whitfield, said words to the effect that there were some matters of an organization that should remain secret, but as to the direction the organization is taking, these matters should be brought fully to the attention of the public.

**IT** seems that Mr. Archer had political ambitions a long time ago. We knew that if we waited long enough, this would come to light. But we never dreamed that a member of the BUT itself

would expose Mr. Archer.

**IT HAPPENED YESTERDAY MORNING**, when the BUT member noted in the Nassau Guardian that: "we should defend the principal of R. M. Bailey School, as we would any other member of the free association. (But) **WE SHOULD NOT PROTECT ANY BUDDING POLITICIANS WHEN THEIR PLANS GO AWRY!**"

**IT** seems pretty obvious to us that Archer may have intentionally overreacted to an impending disciplinary action by the Ministry of Education and this was just another step in his game plan. In fact, the over-reaction was so great that some people, as the Nassau Guardian's cartoonist noted last week, began to believe that Archer had already been fired.

**BUT** as the union member noted in the columns of the morning daily, "at this moment, the sole beneficiary of this exercise seems to be the hierarchy of the BUT, which can now recover from the

slough of ineffectiveness, rally round the flag and reach for the glorious crown of martyrdom, with a 99.9 per cent chance of no one calling its bluff."

WE ADVISE ALL THE 200 MEMBERS of the BUT, who turned out to be whipped into a wild, frothing, anti-government frenzy, to ponder carefully the words of one of their own comrades. It is the words of one of your own that you

should consider, not The Herald's.

IN THE MEANTIME, we have several questions for Mr. Archer.

IS THERE ANY TRUTH TO THE RUMOUR THAT YOU BORROWED MONEY FROM C. C. SWEETING SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, WHILE YOU WERE ITS PRINCIPAL?

IS IT TRUE THAT THIS MONEY HAS NOT YET BEEN REPAID?

IT IS TRUE THAT YOU OWE THE BAHAMAS UNION OF TEACHERS MONEY?

IS IT TRUE THAT YOU RUN THE BAHAMAS UNION OF TEACHERS IN SUCH A MANNER THAT THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP HAS LITTLE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS? (And don't give us that infantile foolishness about the "democratic process," either)

CSO: 3298/639/640



## FNM STATEMENT BLAMES PLP FOR UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 11 May 83 pp 5, 13

[Text] UNEMPLOYMENT is the most acute and dangerous problem facing this nation today, one which the PLP government is responsible for and one for which they have to take responsibility and face the inevitable reckoning, an FNM release said today.

The FNM said even the government's own count revealed that all the projects in progress and on the drawing board would not scratch the surface of the unemployment problem which has accumulated over the last decade, from "neglect and mismanagement."

"Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling's special aide, Dr Elliston Rahming has tried to deflect the responsibility for unemployment from the government to the private sector," the release said. "That was nothing but a transparent ruse unworthy of the doctor."

"Youth Week has come and gone and the young people of the country have heard not a word about how the Pindling administration plans to produce the thousands of jobs needed for those who are leaving school this summer and who have been leaving school over the last decade of summers."

"The Minister of Youth, Sports and Community Affairs, Kendal Nottage has had much to say. He has admitted that 'there are many of our brothers and sisters in the community today with no hope. They are seeking direction, they need guidance.' True indeed! These

young people do need direction and guidance but most of all they need jobs. Or does the Minister propose to direct them how to live a good life without jobs," the FNM asked.

"Mr Nottage said the young people must 'equip themselves' and prepare to conquer the obstacles that they are bound to meet.' But how do young people turned out of school with inadequate education equip themselves? Equip themselves how? And to do what? It seems that the best thing the youth of the nation should prepare themselves for is the very next opportunity to rid themselves of a faithless and incompetent government."

The FNM wanted to know how it could possibly be suggested that the Prime Minister's friend and a "prominent" member of the PLP, Gareth 'Tiger' Finlayson, would be part of a conspiracy to create unemployment.

"Would Gareth 'Tiger' Finlayson, a friend of the Prime Minister and prominent member of the PLP be part of a conspiracy to create unemployment? If not, then why did Mr Finlayson's company lay off workers in his organization? And while he is trying to explain that, perhaps Dr Rahming should also tell the public why Bahamasair is buying its flight meals outside the country---instead of from Mr Finlayson's Nassau Caterers who hire Bahamians?"

The FNM also wanted to know if the Prime Minister was also a part of this conspiracy. "After all we should not forget what he said on the radio early in January when he warned that there would be a 'shakeout' in the hotel industry in 1983. Mr Pindling said:

"He (the ordinary worker) doesn't have the appreciation of the fact that the employer is having to pay more to get the same amount of people in his hotel as before. His margin of profit therefore is smaller than the days before...he therefore cannot meet the demands of his workers. The worker can't understand why this big rich hotel can't afford to pay him more money."

The FNM said that surely Dr Rahming must understand that some businesses are not doing well, because of the "blighted" state of the economy, and therefore cannot afford to take on additional staff.

Dr Rahming had suggested that Bahamian businessmen, as a show of patriotism, hire at least two summer students to help alleviate the unemployment problem. He said merchants could "allocate during their high season sufficient funds for this special category of student. Let's face it," said Dr Rahming, "you hire a student coming out of high school with no real skills and let's say you pay him \$75 a week---you're looking at \$4,000 a year. Let's face it, that's not going to make or break a merchant on Bay

Street! But it will do a lot to giving a student work. So it's a matter of where one's priorities are."

"The talk about summer jobs is really to obscure the fact that for years there have been not enough jobs period; no winter jobs, nor spring jobs, nor autumn jobs, nor summer jobs," said the FNM in reply to Dr Rahming. "That is the fact of the matter and no amount of PLP blather, even from the lips of the educated doctor can change it. Dr Rahming himself has said that it would require the creation of 9,000 jobs over a year to bring unemployment down to 10%."

"Dr Rahming is qualified to have a good future in the

service of his country so it is a pity to see him being used by the Prime Minister to run interference between himself and an increasingly dissatisfied populace. He should consider whether it is worth it to sacrifice his credibility on the altar of PLP politics."

"Mr Pindling and his party have been elected to govern the country for five more years. It is therefore his responsibility and the responsibility of his Ministers, Parliamentary secretaries and Members of Parliament to address the political affairs of the nation. Does he not trust his Ministers? Or is it that his Ministers cannot say with a straight face the things he gives Dr Rahming to say. Mr

Pindling's colleagues should take up this important matter with their chief."

"As for Dr Rahming, we advise him to get out while the getting is good. There is no need for him to face the wrath of the public for Mr Pindling who will only discard him like a worn dishtowel when Dr Rahming would have served his usefulness," said the FNM.

"The bottom line on unemployment is that it is the most acute and dangerous problem facing this nation today, a problem which the PLP government has created and for which they will have to take the awful responsibility and face the inevitable reckoning," the FNM release said

CSO: 3298/698

## PLP EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MP DISCUSSES BAHAMAS' FOREIGN POLICY

Nassau THE HERALD in English 5 May 83 p 7

[Text

**THE** Law of the Sea Treaty which was signed in Montego Bay, Jamaica, on 10 December, 1982 by some 121 states, including The Bahamas, represents, for The Bahamas, a clarification of its territorial borders which were heretofore assumed but not legalized. What the Treaty has done in effect, is to literally turn water into land. So said Mr. James Moultrie, M.P., and Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of External Affairs as he addressed the Eastern Women's branch of the Progressive Liberal Party on Sunday night last.

MR. MOULTRIE spoke on "The Bahamas and International Affairs," which proved entertaining and informative for his audience as Senator Ruby Ann Darling, an executive member in the branch put it, "while it is good to know what is happening in your own backyard it is equally as important to know what is happening in the backyards of others, particularly on an international scale, and particularly when it involves one's country."

AND according to Mr. Moultrie, the Law of the Sea

convention definitely concerns The Bahamas. He said: "the convention marks a milestone in the history of international co-operation and indeed it has been described as the single most successful endeavour ever attempted by civilized nations. Its achievements represent the balancing of the interests of Coastal States, landlocked states, archipelagic states, developed states, and developing states."

"THE CONVENTION would permit The Bahamas to draw baselines around the entire perimeter of the archipelago including the great and little Bahama Banks and the Cay Sal Bank. The area of water thus enclosed would be approximately 80,000 square nautical miles. The land area would include those areas above water and the submerged area of the Banks — some 38,382 square nautical miles. For The Bahamas, in relation to the drawing of archipelagic baselines, the Convention has turned water into land."

MR. MOULTRIE noted that the fact that certain industrialised nations, including the United States, did not sign the treaty, has caused some quarters to criticize the Bahamian Government for doing so. But, he said, there is one matter of strategic interest which we as a people must understand: "The Bahamas is a sovereign, free and independent state, and as such the interests of The Bahamas must always be

paramount. We must at all times pursue a policy which enhances our independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. These are not negotiable. While we will continue to operate with due consideration for the normal and customary conduct of diplomacy, the interest of The Bahamas must supercede all other interest."

HE FURTHER SAID: "In pursuit of the most fundamental objective of protecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of The Bahamas, there have been some disagreements with other states who have their own opinions of what we are attempting to do. In the process, there have been negative reactions even from Bahamians who do not seem to appreciate what it means to protect the sovereignty of The Bahamas."

"THE preservation of our fishery resources is one example of pursuing a policy which protects the interest of The Bahamas ... The Immovable Properties Legislation is yet another example of the preservation of the interests of The Bahamas. In pursuit of this policy we are faced with opposition from within and outside The Bahamas, when all we are attempting to do is to protect the interests of The Bahamas. No foreign person has the fundamental right to buy Bahamian land. Similarly, no Bahamian has the fundamental right to sell The Bahamas to anyone. But all Bahamians



have a solemn obligation to protect The Bahamas' independence and sovereignty ...

"ON OUR PART, we will continue to respect the territorial integrity and independence

of all states and will continue to abide by the accepted rules of diplomacy. We only require the same of others. We do not wish to be dominated or coerced and will not accept any

attempt, however camouflaged, to interfere in our internal affairs. We hope that all Bahamians will stand by us in this noble objective of preserving The Bahamas."

CSO: 3298/698

## PLP ORGAN SEES SPLIT BETWEEN FNM, YOUTH ORGANIZATION

Nassau THE HERALD in English 5 May 83 pp 1, 7

[Text]

**THE MEMBERS of the Torchbearers Association, the youth arm of the Free National Movement are hard at work. They are working feverishly to perform an operation on the FNM for they are slowly beginning to realise that the party that they call their own is not what it purports to be.**

**THE TORCHBEARERS** is the organisation the FNM wants the Bahamian people to believe is the role model for youth committed to the advent of an FNM government. That was true of the organization when it re-surfaced about one year ago, but now as the FNM settles in for the long haul of opposition politics, leading members of the Torchbearers are becoming more disillusioned with the party everyday.

**WE CAN PROVE IT:** Confidential information regarding several recent occurrences between the Torchbearers and the "senior party" has fallen into the hands of The Herald. What we have uncovered is bitter disagreements and verbal battles between the FNM and its "youth arm".

**TROUBLE** between the Torchbearers and the "senior party" became apparent just last month when a member of the youth arm's disciplinary board, one Daphne Duncombe wrote to Miss Yvette Bethel, severely criticizing her for "lack of concern and unreliability."

A SOURCE close to the hierarchy of the senior party told The Herald that members of

the FNM's senior council were "outraged by Daphne's brazenness."

"THEY felt that she was way out of line with her criticism of Miss Bethel," our source told us. "What Daphne actually told Yvette was that the Torchbearers did not like her missing so many meetings. She is supposed to be an executive member of the group in order to keep an eye on them, but she really does not care one way or the other. The straw that broke the camel's back was when Daphne called Yvette unfaithful to the Torchbearers. That letter was written to Yvette about two weeks ago."

UP to early last week the resentment and antagonism between the FNM and its youth arm had reached such alarming proportions that young Daphne Duncombe felt moved to write a letter to the "real leader" of the party, Mr. Cecil Wallace-Whitfield and forward a copy to Mr. Kendal G. L. Isaacs, Q.C.

MISS DUNCOMBE, according to our source, told Mr. Whitfield that she was "mad as hell" that certain members of the senior party believes that she had scolded Yvette Bethel out of "pettiness".

**CONTINUED OUR SOURCE:** "she said that she was extremely peeved that they believed what they did without asking her or the Torchbearers Association. She said that their actions, meaning the senior party, showed that they had no respect for the Torchbearers."

OUR SOURCE has not seen any correspondence from Mr. Whitfield back to Miss Duncombe, but says that the FNM Chairman was uncertain whether to respond in writing or to simply have a "quick word" with Miss Duncombe whenever he had the chance.

**BUT THE REAL SHOCKER** of all the inner workings of the FNM and the Torchbearers that we have been informed of happened earlier this week.

LISA THURSTON, the young student who purportedly leads the students National Action Party (SNAP) and resides in the constituency of St. Michael's has been invited by George Wilson, Chairman of the FNM's Convention Committee, who ran unsuccessfully for the constituency, to address the postponed FNM convention on behalf of the youth of the party!

WE have been unable to confirm whether or not Miss Thurston has accepted, but one thing is certain: The Torchbearers are furious that some "Johnny come lately" has been chosen to speak for them.

THAT FURY, said our source, caused them to write Mr. Wilson a vicious letter and forward copies to Mr. Isaacs.

SAID OUR SOURCE: "Fred Williamson, who has something to do with publicity for the Torchbearers told George that his choosing a speaker to talk for them was an insult to their views as they had already told them who they

wanted to speak for them, but he has not replied."

THE HERALD and most fair-minded Bahamians will recall that members of the Free National Movement have often accused the Prime Minister of being dictatorial. They say that the PLP loves forcing decisions on people.

BUT now their own youth arm is discovering that the persons whom they have chosen to follow practice exactly what they accuse the PLP of.

OUR SOURCE tells us that "the Torchbearers are angry that Yvette Bethel, whose name was not even mentioned

on a list they sent to Georgie (Wilson) is scheduled to speak for twenty-five minutes."

THE BITTER STRUGGLE rages on between the youth arm and the senior party of the FNM, is threatening to have serious repercussions for the entire organisation. We have tried to warn the members of the Torchbearers, publicly, of the kind of persons they are dealing with in the FNM. They have chosen to ignore our good advice. Now they are finding out the truth the hard way: by Bitter Experience!

CSO: 3298/698

## LETTER TO PINDLING QUERIES PRIVATE USE OF ACKLINS AIRSTRIP

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 17 May 83 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text] **A FORMER Acklins Islander today sent a telegram to the Prime Minister asking for a thorough investigation into activity of light aircraft at the new \$2.5 million airstrip at Acklins.**

"On behalf of the people of Acklins, I draw to your attention the fact that the \$2.5 million airstrip has now been officially opened for nearly three months and up to now there has been no Bahamasair flights," Rupert Williamson, a Market Street barber, said in his cable to Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling.

Mr Williamson claimed that light aircraft "from all over the world" are using the airport to land and take off night and day.

"This is a very serious matter for it is rumoured that there is a heavy drug trade going on at the airport. We further recall that Mr Roker, at the official opening, stated that the airport was built because he was instructed by his government and not out of any love for Acklins," the telegram said.

"Having regard for the serious delay in regular flights and the hardships of the people of Acklins, we are compelled to

wonder what is going on at Acklins. We would now like to know why the airport was built and when regular commercial flights are going to begin. We would also like the rumours about the present activity at the airport to be investigated," the telegram said.

The new airport was built at Spring Point, where Mr Williamson said there is a household population of about 20 persons. He said the only road in the area--an unsurfaced one--was built by Mr Basil Kelly the island's former representative under the UBP government.

"Nothing's ever been done to it since then," Mr Williamson said.

The Bahamasair marketing office said today it has no immediate plans to begin a regular air service to Acklins.

Works Minister Loftus Roker said at the official opening of the airstrip March 10 that it was built not out of his love for Acklins, where his "naval string is buried," but as part of the Government's scheme for developing the Bahamas.

"Too often, we complain about our conditions and make no offer to correct them. We blame everybody but ourselves for conditions we find ourselves

in. I have no emotions about the opening of this airport today. Unlike the Deputy Prime Minister and your representative, I can't even say how pleased I am at the opening of this airport," Mr Roker said.

Travel to Acklins for most is still primitive. Mr Williamson said to get to Acklins most people fly to Crooked Island by Bahamasair. He said on arrival at Crooked Island, passengers can take a bus to The Cove for \$10 a head.

"One of my relatives went to Acklins for a funeral several months ago," Mr Williamson said. "After he got to The Cove, they lit a fire so that the people at the nearest point of Acklins---Lovely Bay---could see it to send a boat to pick them up. It takes about an hour to get there by a boat with a motor."

Mr Williamson said the people of Acklins, with no regular air service and an erratic mail boat service, are "catching hell."

"The people are suffering. Nobody is speaking out for the people. The MP (Wilbert Moss, PLP) isn't doing anything," Mr Williamson said.

And, so, Acklins' brand new airstrip is sitting unused by regular commercial planes.

## BRIEFS

NEW UK ENVOY--Mr Peter (William) Heap arrives at the end of the month to take up his new post as British High Commissioner, replacing Mr Achilles Papadopoulos, who retired two weeks ago. Mr Heap was born at Dunchurch in the English Midlands and was educated at Bristol Cathedral College and Merton College, Oxford. He entered the Civil Service in 1959 and was appointed to the Commonwealth Relations Office. He has held appointments at London, Dublin, Colombo, New York and Caracas. Since September, 1980, he has been Head of the Energy, Science and Space Department at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London. Mr Heap married Dorrit (Irene) Breitenstein, nee Martin in 1977. [Text] [Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 11 May 83 p 1]

CIVIL SERVANTS PAY ISSUE--Bahamas Public Services Union members last night urged their executives to reject Government's recent one-year salary proposal for increases this year ranging from nine per cent for workers at the bottom of the civil service scale to three per cent for those at the top. Over 200 union members, attending an emergency meeting at the union's East Street South headquarters, also empowered the executives to continue to negotiate and to do whatever they must to get what they consider to be right for them. Every union member who spoke when the floor was opened for questions, urged the executives to reject the one year proposal. "Do not mention that piece of thing. Call us back when you get it right," one irate member said. [Anthony Forbes] [Excerpts] [Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 12 May 83 p 1]

CSO: 3298/640

PAPERS REFUTE TIMES CHARGE BELIZE IS ARMS TRANSFER POINT

CAYO TIMES Reaction

Belize City THE BEACON in English 21 May 83 p 3

[Text] On the 9th May TIME magazine published an article accusing Belize of being involved in the trafficking in arms to Central America.

The article stated among other things "An important alternative air route for the smugglers is from the former British colony of Belize into Guatemala. After that the rebels and their supplies filter south into Salvadoran rebel strongholds."

Commenting on the article the CAYO TIMES, Shoman's newspaper stated:

"Yet the article is so specific and emphatic. It is not alleged that some may think arms are passing through Belize; it is stated as a fact. It is not merely mentioned as a possibility, but as an important alternative air route."

Then, with anguished bleatings they ask who put it in TIME.

There is a saying in this country "hog wheh bawl, da him get di lick."

Who do they think they are fooling? They know only too well that the restrictions on aviation fuel and on the use of airstrips around the country had to do with preventing arms trafficking as much as with marijuana.

As to who put the article in TIME, has it occurred to some people that the United States might have its Agency checking on just that sort of thing?

Anyhow, now we know where some of the strange money in circulation in Belize came from. We understand that this sort of business is very lucrative.

## Campaign To Discredit Government

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 15 May 83 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] Two weeks ago the opposition newspaper BEACON carried a banner headline in their front page saying that the US Embassy in Belize had been infiltrated. They claimed to have come in possession of secret documents that were obtained from the embassy by a "leftist" agent. And they went on to say that the "left" was using sophisticated electronic equipment to monitor activities at the embassy in Belize City.

Last week, a US Embassy spokesman told the BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES that the BEACON had no important or sensitive information as they claimed to have. They had routine communication, said the spokesman. He had no other comment on the BEACON article.

It is our belief that the article was a fabrication. It was an attempt to strain the good Belize-US relations on the eve of the first meeting between the Belizean leader, Prime Minister George Price, and US President, Mr Ronald Reagan.

While the opposition newspaper was concocting the story, the US ambassador designate to Belize, Mr. Malcolm Barnebey was telling the Foreign Relations Committee in Washington that he would do his utmost to preserve and improve the cordial ties which prevail between the United States and Belize. The Committee's hearing was in preparation for a vote by the full Senate on Mr Barnebey's nomination as the first US ambassador to Belize.

Mr Barnebey also stated that Belize, to date, has remained a peaceful corner of the otherwise turbulent region of Central America.

The campaign to discredit Belize is not only being waged from the inside, it is also being done on an international level.

Two days after the BEACON article appeared in Belize, the U.S. magazine TIME (May 9) accused Belize of being involved in the trafficking of arms to El Salvador.

Said TIME: "An important alternative air route for the smugglers is from the former British colony of Belize into Guatemala. After that, the rebels and their supplies filter south into Salvadoran rebel strongholds."

We have heard this charge made before in Belize by some frustrated politicians. We know that these very same politicians are now desperate and will stop at nothing to discredit the government and people of Belize. They are so naive that they may not realize how much damage they can do to the country.

However, we would like them to know that they could be held responsible for endangering the national security of Belize. They should also know that the people of Belize cannot be taken in by their fabrications. No one really believes their fantastic stories.

CSO: 3298/641



## SPLIT IN PUP FOCUSED ON LEFT'S VOW TO OUST SYLVESTER

Belize City THE BEACON in English 21 May 83 pp 1, 3

[Text] The national convention of the PUP is set for the 29th May and both factions of that "corrupt" party are girding their loins for the inevitable confrontation that will rock them to their very foundation.

Shoman's left wing is jubilant. Sylvestre's right wing is scared.

In one of the most scandalously hypocritically grovelling editorials, Sylvestre's VOICE claims that "political observers, national and international, are pronouncing...that the convention will end up with a split in the 33-year old People's United Party."

The VOICE then goes on to blame the Opposition for the internecine fight which continued unabated in their party over the past months. They proclaim it will be a democratic convention.

They seem to think that the public will easily forget the mutual bad-mouthing which preoccupied both the right and the left: the one shouting communists; the other, corruption.

Do they believe that Belizeans will easily forget the acidic accusations which came in the Declarations of the leftists' so-called democratic direction and the rights' reply? Was it not the right who accused the left of conspiring to overthrow Price and seize leadership by using communist tactics?

Since they have forgotten let us remind them. The "Democratic" Direction: "The party is deeply divided at the leadership level," "But the fundamental problem is that democracy is not practised in the party," "The Pup has lost much respect," and "our party must regain its soul and its dignity." Thus the leftists.

The right wing in reply accused the left that it was the..."clear and obvious intention of the Democratic Direction to take ultimate control of the People's United Party."

But, if they, following the dictates of Price, were offering the olive branch, the leftists were not taking it. They do not forget, among other



things, that Mr Sylvestre's wife was one of the founder members of the anti-communist movement which directly and unequivocally challenged their very existence.

So it came as no surprise that Shoman's CAYO TIMES of the 7th May set the tone and the record straight.

In a straightforward, no-punches-pulled, article they made it crystal clear that leftists Shoman, Musa and Courtenay will have no part of Sylvestre and his gang.

It accuses the right of leaking countrywide that there exists a "slate" which includes Louis Sylvestre as Chairman and goes on to name Harry Courtenay as Honorary Secretary, Said Musa as Treasurer, and Assad Shoman as National Youth Organizer.

#### Sylvestre Must Go

Courtenay, Musa and Shoman "denied they had agreed to form part of such a slate and declared that they would not be prepared to form part of an executive which included Mr. Sylvestre as chairman of the party." In other words, Sylvestre must go.

At first Sylvestre decided to hang tough. At a recent meeting at Orange Walk, he, Hunter, Pech, Marin, Castillo and Briceño entered into a hasty alliance "to meet the communist threat."

At this point Price tried to mediate. Shoman was blunt in his reply: the jobs of leader and deputy leader would, for the meantime, not be challenged. Every other position was up for grabs and he would be grabbing.

At this stage "Cous" got yellow. He began to beg.

It is now obvious that the left will dominate the convention and the party.

#### Corruption Condoned

They have been loud in opposing corruption in their party. They have been beating their breasts and pronouncing how holy they are. Now they face the moment of truth. Will they rid themselves of the corrupt element and bring dignity to the "corrupt undemocratic party."

Do the communists have the moral fiber to rid their party of the corruption that has engulfed it, and give it dignity?

Observers, national and international are looking on.

CSO: 3298/641

## ANALYSIS OF ELECTORAL STRENGTH OF PUP, OPPOSITION UDP

Belize City THE BEACON in English 21 May 83 p 2

["Viewpoint" column]

[Text] Over the years it has become customary for everyone to refer to the PUP as 'government' and the UDP and its predecessors as 'opposition.' This has occurred because we have never had a change of party in government, so that the constitutional title of 'Opposition' conferred on the party not in government, instead of being a temporary state of affairs, has become an almost permanent title 'opposition' in the minds of many people. But the fact is that neither the title 'Government' nor the title 'Opposition' are permanent titles, so that in the normal course of events a political party would carry one title and then the other as elections come and go. But in Belize, this has not happened. So used have people become to regarding UDP and 'opposition' as meaning one and the same thing, that there is likely to be a great deal of conversational confusion after the UDP becomes the government, as some people will probably still refer to the party as 'opposition.' But even before this happens, the present evolution of politics in Belize is demanding that we get straight in our minds the difference between UDP and 'opposition.'

In the late 60's Belize witnessed the advent of trained and dedicated leftists in the political arena. At the beginning, these people were 'opposition,' meaning they were against the government of the day. They naturally looked for allies in the NIP, the official 'Opposition,' as they realized they would need an organized base to carry on their 'struggle.' But these leftists soon discovered they could find more willing allies within the ruling party itself which had the added advantage that affiliation with the ruling party could bring instant power. So they infiltrated the PUP, while still remaining 'opposition.' Over the years they have tried to take over power in the PUP, but they have been resisted by other factions in the PUP. They realized after independence that if they succeeded in taking over the PUP, that party's supporters would be split, and they could probably take no more than about 35% of the supporters with them. It became clear to them that if they were to seize total power they would have to win over some of the 'opposition,' that is to say UDP, to be able to win elections as an independent leftist party. As matters now stand, the PUP and the UDP can both claim just about 50% each of the

voters. The leftists have decided that if they could get 35% of the UDP vote, in addition to 35% of the PUP vote, that would leave PUP with 32 1/2%, UDP with 32 1/2%, and leftists 35%. They feel they already have the 35% of the PUP, so now they have set out to get the 35% UDP. Now they know that they can't accomplish this openly, so they have converted Elrington and other certain elements known to be 'opposition,' that it not necessarily pro-UDP but against the ruling party, and are now using these converts to recruit support from among the UDP. So we are now hearing many voices being raised in criticism of the government while simultaneously praising the leftists in the PUP. At the same time these 'opposition' voices are also crying out that the UDP can never win election, that the UDP is not smart enough, or hard working enough, or rich enough, or too rich, or too smart, or traveling around too much. In other words, whatever the UDP does, these leftist 'opposition' are ready to say it should be doing something else. The object being, of course, to undermine UDP support to win converts to the leftist cause. So it is time that we be able to distinguish between UDP and 'opposition.' Not everyone who declares himself 'opposition' is UDP, and we can tell the difference quite simply. We just have to ask ourselves: "Is this person helping the UDP to win, or is he trying to destroy people's confidence in the UDP?" Once we have answered that question, we can know who is UDP, and who is just 'opposition.' If the leftists want to start their own party, that is their constitutional right. But the people also have a right to know who they are and what their objectives are. Let them come out into the open. Unless of course, they have something to hide.

CSO: 3298/641

PAPER QUESTIONS REASONS FOR U.S. MILITARY TRAINING BASE

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 15 May 83 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] According to a report in the May 1 issue of the LONDON OBSERVER, one of the things that President Ronald Reagan will want to discuss with the Prime Minister of Belize when they meet in Washington on May 12 is a proposal to move a U.S. military jungle training school from Panama to Belize.

The report is from the OBSERVER's correspondent in Washington, Hugh O'Shaughnessy, and it reinforces local opinion in Belize that the Americans would like to build up a military presence in Belize just as much as the British want to reduce or remove theirs.

Why the United States would want to establish a jungle training camp in Belize when they could have everything they want in neighbouring Honduras is an intriguing question. Honduras is willing and able to accommodate the Americans, and Honduras has lots of jungle suitable for training purposes. If Panama is too far away for the urgent business of Central America, Honduras most certainly is not.

Perhaps Washington is considering Congress' sensitivity to U.S. military forces in Honduras which is already involved in hostilities with Nicaragua. Or maybe for reasons of economy and logistics Belize offers more advantages for such a camp. Maybe too the Americans believe that their presence in Belize would inhibit the further growth of the budding communist movement on these shores.

But we believe there is another consideration.

Even while Belize was making its preparations for independence in early 1981--at a time when Britain would normally be expected to wind down her operations here, she was actively building a new jungle camp in the Toledo. It seemed incongruous at the time that Britain, so frugal with her so-called golden handshake when she agreed to Belize independence, would be spending millions on a jungle training camp for a Belize Defence Force, which even today numbers less than a thousand trained men.

But if there had been an agreement in 1980 between Britain, the United States and Belize that the base camp in Toledo would be used as an American jungle training camp, that would explain a lot of little riddles!

It would explain why the Prime Minister, not especially known for any degree of intestinal fortitude, accepted independence in the face of a Guatemalan threat without first exacting a defence guarantee from Britain. It would explain why the Prime Minister Mr. Price was not over-anxious about an early meeting with President Reagan. He will see Mr. Reagan for the first time face to face this week, even though Belize has been independent now going on twenty months. It would even explain the frenzy in the leftist press--notably the CAYO TIMES and the Orange Walk PUEBLO--which have been urging the Prime Minister Mr. Price not to "sell out"--whatever that means.

Mr. Price will have to walk carefully in Washington. He cannot afford to alienate the left within his own party because already he depends too heavily on them for ideas, planning and execution. On the other hand he cannot afford to say no to president Reagan either, especially if there was a prior arrangement between Mr. Price, Mr. Nicholas Ridley and somebody from State.

Our guess is that if Mr. Reagan really wants Toledo for a military jungle base he will get Toledo for a military jungle base--and the 64 year old Prime Minister will get a chance to bring back a few plums--maybe a larger sugar quota and a commitment for more U.S. economic help in the future.

CS0: 3298/641

## GOVERNMENT APPROVES EXPANSION OF BELIZE CITY BY HALF AGAIN

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 15 May 83 pp 1, 12

[Text]

THE BELIZE GOVERNMENT has given its approval for a Statutory Instrument under the Belize City Council Ordinance to extend the city limits, expanding the old town to nearly one and a half times its physical size.

The new boundaries will take in Belizean Beach on the Western Highway and all buildings and improvements on the Northern Highway up to and including the houses at Bella Vista.

The effects of the boundary change are both political and economical. All buildings including homes, factories and commercial shops encompassed by the new boundary will be expected to pay property tax, and Fire Rate the same as those in Belize City -that is 25 per-cent of their annual rental value each year. This alone is expected to bring in a sizable revenue to the Belize City Council estimated to exceed half a million dollars a year.

Politically speaking the new boundaries will affect voters and candidates of the Belize Rural South area, the

Collet, Freetown and Albert Divisions as well.

Under Section 3 of the City Council Ordinance the Minister of Local Government has authority to define the boundary limits of the City of Belize after consulting with the Belize City Council. The old City boundary, which included all land within two miles of the Court House, stopped just short of the Palms Motel on the Western Road and extended a little ways beyond the Pallotine Convent on the Northern Road.

The new boundaries are defined in surveyor's language and with the exception of Bird Isle and the Fort George Lighthouse, makes no reference to land marks at all so that a reading of the reference points would be of no help whatsoever to the average reader in determining what the new city limits are.

The map with boundaries shown on page 12 was drawn for the REPORTER by licensed surveyor Mr. Gustavo Bautista based on survey information provided under the new Statutory Instrument No. 33 of 1983.

## DARK DAYS FOR CANE FARMERS; PROBLEM WITH CANE QUALITY

## Status Report on Factories

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 15 May 83 p 8

[Text]

The Belize Sugar Board reports that both factories has been performing at top efficiency, but this has begun to be affected by inferior quality cane caused by excessive cane burning. The Board's April report says Belize Sugar Industries will be putting into effect measures to reduce the delivery of stale canes to both sugar factories.

As at the end of May 3, following the May Day holiday, production stood at 78,965 long tons. Of

this amount 37,052 long tons have been exported to the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Canada.

The Board's review for April of the 1983 cane price estimates showed a slight drop in the prices to date. Libertad's cane price has decreased from \$35.73 to \$35.13 per ton and Tower Hill's from \$34.78 and \$34.19 due mainly to the continuing drop in the value of Sterling, in which currency exports to the EEC are paid.

## Evaluation of Situation

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 22 May 83 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

THE DECISION of the Corozal Division of the Cane Farmers Association to call in a professional consultancy firm to advise it during the difficult weeks and months ahead is a smart move.

Cane farming is a multi-million dollar business. Last year cane farmers collectively earned \$41.6 million. The year before they earned something like \$52 million. But for too many years



they have taken their industry for granted, content to attend an occasional meeting and to give their elected representatives a long hand to do pretty much as they please.

This laissez-faire attitude was all right while sugar was king and sugar prices were booming and everybody was making money. Now that sugar prices have declined to unprecedented levels and both growers and processors are feeling the pinch of hard times, it is time for cane farmers to start "sleeping with their own eyes".

Cane farmers especially need to look at the marketing aspects of the sugar business; at the way their Association is run and the need to obtain adequate reports and analyses to put them in a position where they can make sensible decisions to modernize their industry.

Intensive cultivation methods for instance can show them how to double their production on the same acreage. Time and motion studies will show them how to do their transportation and haulage with half the manpower and half the number of vehicles. Modern manage-

ment methods can show them how to eliminate waste, cut down on fraud and feather-bedding and in general get the best return for their time and effort and investment.

Cane farmers today are going through some of their darkest days. Although sugar experts don't know just how long the adverse conditions will last, there seems to be a general consensus that things can't get much worse. The only place left for prices to go is up!

If cane farmers don't learn from the sad experiences of these depression years they may not be able to bring about any permanent improvement when market conditions do improve. The thing to do now is to look for ways to improve the industry, to cut off the baby fat to leave the industry muscular and vigorous.

One would hope that three generations of cane farmers would be able to produce some bright young men who could put their heads together to guide the industry towards a progressive and brighter future. This is a job for cane farmers.

CSO: 3298/642



## PRICE IN U.S.: NONE OF NICARAGUA'S SUGAR QUOTA FOR BELIZE

## Media Coverage of Visit

Belize City AMANDALA in English 13 May 83 p 1

[Text]

BELIZE CITY, Fri. May 13

A Tuesday White House announce-ment by U.S. President Ronald Reagan, the text of which was received yesterday from the U.S. Embassy, appears to limit the re-allocation of Nicaragua's 58,000 short ton sugar quota to Honduras, Costa Rica, and El Salvador.

Reagan cut Nicaragua's quota from 58,000 to 6,000 tons to punish that republic for "financing subversion in the region" and re-allocated the quota to the other three Central American republics to reward them for being friendly to the United States. Effective October 1, 1983, Honduras will get 52 per cent, Costa Rica 30, and Salvador 18 per cent of the Nicaraguan quota.

Speculation in Belize had been that Belize Prime Minister George Price, who met with Reagan at the White House yesterday, would try to get some of the Nicaraguan quota to bail out Belize's staggering sugar industry. But in a speech in Washington yesterday which was relayed to Belize, Mr. Price used a magic word which gets U.S. State Department officials uptight. He said Belize is "non-aligned": to State hard liners "non-aligned" means "communist" or "communist sympathizer".

Local television viewers who had been expecting the Belize delegation's visit to be splashed on CNN news yesterday were disappointed. Up to press time, there was no news on the cable channels received in Belize of the Belize delegation's visit to Washington.

Last night between 8:30 and 9 p.m. on Independent Network News, a New York based service which is televised by Chicago's WGN and Belize's Channel 9, footage of Mr. Price and Mr. Reagan, both in suits and smiling, appeared for about two or three seconds. It was obviously a network mistake, as the broadcast news copy had nothing to do with Mr. Price or the Belize delegation, and there was nothing else transmitted about the visit except those few mistaken seconds.

Our conclusion is that INN had shot footage of Price and Reagan but the news editors had canned the footage as not important enough for prime time.

At this stage, it would seem that Mr. Price and his Cabinet delegation are not singing the correct song. If they were, the visit would be receiving maximum publicity.

## Assessment of Price's Approach

Belize City AMANDALA in English 13 May 83 p 12

[Text]

BELIZE CITY, Fri. May 13

Some observers in Belize are saying that the Belize delegation's visit to Washington has been severely low keyed in the U.S. because the State Department does not want to offend the powerful Guatemalans.

Be that as it may, the Belize Prime Minister will either bring home money or he will bring home ideology. At this stage, his talk of being "non-aligned" sounds like somebody who will bring home ideology. And Belize voters later this year and next

year may not vote for ideology.

We have had the feeling that the Price tricks which stripped the Guats of their moneys in the 50s and the British of their hegemony in the 60s will not work well in Ronald Reagan's Washington. The people at State are hard pressed and anxious: after offending the Guatemalans by giving Belize its independence, they will not stand for equivocating from Mr. Price on the problems of subversion and communism in Central America.

CSO: 3298/642

## BRIEFS

PRICE AND PERSONAL POWER--For the last 35 years and more, 365 days a year, Mr. George Price has dedicated himself single-mindedly and wholeheartedly to the accumulation of greater political power for himself. The argument he used to convince and persuade supporters was that more power for himself meant more progress for Belize. Mr. Price, since September 21, 1981, has enjoyed more political power than any parliamentary leader in the world. And since September 21, 1981, the economy of Belize has steadily collapsed. The equation appears to indicate that power for Price and the betterment of Belize are in inverse proportions. The more power for Price, the worse off Belize. The parallel is Haiti. The more power for Duvalier and his family, the worse off Haiti. Malnutrition and starvation now exist in Belize. They entered the stage during Mr. Price's political soliloquy. He finds everybody and everything to blame except himself. We suggest, under the circumstances, that less power for Mr. Price, might lead to betterment for Belize. Is it not, dear people, worth a try? [Editorial] [Text] [Belize City AMANDALA in English 13 May 83 p 2]

FOREIGN CONSPIRACY OVER PARAQUAT--An American newspaper has disclosed the dangers to which Belizeans have been exposed by the recent wholesale spraying of paraquat in Belize. The article has pulled no punches in laying blame for this callous act rammed down the throats of an honest, unsuspecting people. It has left no doubt that there was complicity between the American, Mexican and Belizean governments. The American motive was to display a moral attitude which was not in evidence at home. The Mexicans would reduce competition from Belize pot. The Belizean government--for a few dollars more. By now the truth has become all too self-evident that government is paying too high a price for a few million dollars. The health of our people is priceless. No amount of "eagles" can compensate for deformed and retarded Belizean children. Let America understand that. As to the Belize Prime Minister we offer a single bit of advice: let there be a bi-partisan commission of inquiry into the whole sordid paraquat mess. And we mean now. [Editorial] [Text] [Belize City THE BEACON in English 14 May 83 p 2]

CRITICISM OF CITY GOVERNMENT--Thurs. May 12 Belize City Council workers are crying in protest at some harsh new directives from City Hall under new Mayor Alvan Fuller. Larger tasks have been ordered for cutters and the Town Clerk's circular says that tasks must be "cut flush with the ground

level or 'knuckles down.' Work that is not cut 'knuckles down' is not to be accepted." The Belmopan ministers, whose "knuckles" are usually wrapped around some glass of fermented beverage or perhaps some nubile maiden, presumably intend to work the underpaid Citco labourers to death to save their own political skin. Meanwhile, observers note that there are no listings in the new telephone directory for City Hall or the Mayor's office. The intention must be to run Belize City like Belmopan: no complaints from the slaves to be tolerated. [Text] [Belize City AMANDALA in English 13 May 83 p 3]

CSO: 3298/643

## MP'S CRITICIZE, DISCUSS STATUS OF FOREIGN COMPANIES

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 14 May 83 pp 1, 2

[Text] Government and the Opposition appeared to swap sides in a debate in the House of Assembly yesterday.

For while members of the ruling UBP, which traditionally backs big business, slammed the behaviour of some insurance companies, members of the Opposition PLP, which is often accused of being against foreign business, warned of dire consequences if non-Bermudian firms pulled out of the Island.

The switch in stance came during debate on amendments to the 1983 Insurance Act presented by Finance Minister the Hon. David Gibbons. The major change, affecting only non-resident insurance undertakings, involves an increase from 25 percent to 60 percent of their net premiums that the companies may be required to invest in Bermuda, mainly in mortgages.

"I would like to emphasise that this does not become law with the passing of this amendment, but gives the Minister the ability to bring this into effect in the event that such a requirement is to be made mandatory," he said.

Mr. Gibbons said that discussions had been held with NRIUs over the past two years about providing mortgage funds, and he thought they had agreed to cooperate voluntarily. But six months ago one of the big firms involved said it was pulling out.

"I told them it could be made mandatory, although

we would prefer it on a voluntary basis," said Mr. Gibbons.

The company, through "aggressive or forceful persuasion" then agreed to go along.

NRIUs are international firms that actually do business in Bermuda as opposed to conducting business from Bermuda. Government has never insisted on the 25 percent in the past. But Mr. Gibbons said greater amounts might be needed in future to provide mortgages for Bermudians, although he hoped it would never be necessary as interest rates on overseas loans were coming down to single figures.

He hoped the money could be raised voluntarily without having to make the investment guideline mandatory.

Mr. David Wilkinson appeared to reflect a change in Government philosophy when he made a passionate speech attacking the behaviour of some companies.

"I am sorry that insurance companies have been such poor corporate citizens that they have not done this voluntarily," he said.

"It appears they have come here to Bermuda and got advantages under which they can operate businesses and have creamed off all the money they got. Some of these skinflints thought that because they had 100 or 120 Bermudians on the payrolls that they would intimidate this House and say what they would do.

"I am glad we are putting these companies on notice that we mean to see they behave as proper corporate citizens. If this is not adhered to in the spirit we intended, then other measures will have to be taken.

"In Canada, 90 percent has to stay in Canada. I cannot see how anyone can expect to come here and do business in this community and think we are such suckers in 1983 that we are not going to demand that

some of that cream comes back here."

Opposition Leader Mrs. Lois Browne Evans said she was disappointed the public gallery had not been overflowing with Bermudians to hear Mr. Wilkinson's speech.

"To hear him talk in such stern language to the business community, with whom the UBP have been bed-mates for years," she said.

"Just a few months after the election and they come out with all this. But before that they were saying on the grapevine to watch out if the PLP gets in. They have said it is us who will drive away all the business and tax the companies."

Mr. Austin Thomas, (PLP), who did not point out that he was employed by one of the insurance firms affected, made a strong defence of the companies and pointed to the benefits they brought Bermudians.

"If any of us in the PLP used those exact same words (as Mr. Wilkinson), the same expressions, with just half the poignancy and thrust, we would have been slaughtered up and down this country," he said.

"The Royal Gazette would have had big banner headlines indicating what the PLP is all about and warning international business: 'This is it.' The real snake came out of the grass this morning."

Mr. Thomas warned that many businesses might read the comments of Government members and decide not to continue in Bermuda.

"That can very easily be done," he said.

"And the people who will be hurt will be the poor people of our community and the people employed by these companies."

Mr. Thomas wondered why only one section of business was being hit, and whether or not local businesses would be forced to invest in Bermuda.

Mr. Gibbons said NRIUs did not have to pay employment tax and so were in a different category to other companies.

## PARLIAMENT TO CONSIDER GREEN PAPER ON LABOR RELATIONS

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 12 May 83 p 7

[Text]

Government's long-awaited Green Paper on labour relations will be tabled in the House of Assembly tomorrow at the end of a week in which industrial strife has dominated the headlines.

The lengthy paper is to be tabled by the Hon. Sir John Sharpe, Minister of Home Affairs. But anybody hoping to see Government suggest major changes in labour legislation will be disappointed.

"It simply sets out the background to labour relations in Bermuda and explores the various possibilities for improvements that have been suggested from time to time," said Sir John.

"It analyses the pros and cons of the current situation without reaching conclusions either way. We are not suggesting anything definitive."

Sir John said his Ministry had drawn up the paper without consultations with either unions or employers.

"The aim is to get a constructive response to this document from all interested parties," he said.

"I would hope we can have the Green Paper debated in the House in two

weeks, and then the matter can be fully aired in the community. It's impossible to say at this stage whether Government would be bringing forward a White Paper after the discussion process.

"It may be that the general feeling in the community is that no changes are needed in our present legislation, or that only a few amendments are necessary. Until we get the feedback we cannot say."

Government first voiced concern over labour legislation in the Throne Speech of 1981 — the year of the wave of strikes that crippled the Island.

The matter was raised again in the Throne Speech of last year, and in the speech of this year Government said: "Labour relations are of great importance to successful business of any kind and Government proposes to give urgent attention to the need to improve relations between employers and employees."

"The creation of harmony at the workplace is vital and Government regards understanding and trust between employers and employees as the proper basis for continued economic growth."



## BRIEFS

FISH FROM TURKS, CAICOS--Fisherman Mr. Sean Ingham could be close to sealing an agreement with the Turks and Caicos Islands government to bring large supplies of fish to Bermuda. Mr. Ingham has just returned from a two-week trip to the Caribbean islands where he held talks with government ministers. But the normally talkative fisherman was yesterday keeping details of his ambitious plans to a minimum. "We have a lot of delicate negotiations going on down there with the government," he said. "I don't want to let the cat out of the bag." Mr. Ingham took a crew of six on his boat Trilogy. While in the Turks and Caicos he said he caught large amounts of red rock fish, not available in Bermuda. Although he would not go into detail on the top talks, he said: "Everything looks promising. We had some negotiations about fishing. There is one hell of a lot of fish down there. We were pleased with what we did. The government was pleased. We profited from the whole thing. It now depends on how negotiations go." Last October Mr. Ingham said he hoped to increase local supplies of fish by 40,000 pounds every six weeks by running a fish delivery service between the Turks and Caicos and Bermuda. He said he intended to use Trilogy and two other boats to make voyages back to the Island every six weeks. [Text] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 11 May 83 p 1]

PLP MEMBERSHIP DRIVE--The Sandys branch of the Progressive Labour Party will hold a public meeting on Thursday to bring the party's membership up to date on developments. Chairman for the Sandys branch, Mr. Milton Bean, said yesterday that the PLP would also be making a drive for membership at the meeting to be held at 8 p.m. at the Sandys Secondary School. Speaking at the meeting will be the four area PLP Members of Parliament, Mr. Eugene Cox (Sandys North), Shadow Minister of Finance; Mr. Walter Roberts (Sandys South), Shadow Minister of Transport; Mr. Lionel Simmons (Sandys North), Shadow Minister of Youth and Sport; and Mr. Walter Lister (Sandys South), Shadow Minister of Planning. "They will be speaking on their shadow ministries and how they affect the development of Sandys," said Mr. Bean, adding that discussion will also be general. "We will also be soliciting membership for Sandys at the meeting." [Text] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 11 May 83 p 3]

ELECTION APPEAL DECISION--The Progressive Labour Party's bid to have the February 3 General Election declared null and void was thrown out of court yesterday. Chief Justice the Hon. Sir James Astwood dismissed the election

petition filed by the 26 unsuccessful PLP candidates and the six "private citizens" representing constituencies in which the Opposition won seats. He also dismissed the three further petitions challenging polling procedures in the constituencies of St. George's North, Warwick East and Hamilton West. The Chief Justice ruled that the petitioners had not followed the proper procedures for contesting the election. He also ruled that the petitions could not be used to challenge the Parliamentary Registrar or to question the preparation or publication of the voters' list. The "global" petition challenging all 40 elected MPs was clearly incorrect legal procedure, the Chief Justice said in his 15-page judgment. [Excerpt] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 12 May 83 pp 1, 3]

CSO: 3298/644

## AMBITIOUS LITERACY CAMPAIGN TO BE LAUNCHED IN 1984

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 23 May 83 p 1

[Text] In the first 6 months of next year the "Professor Elizardo Perez" National Plan for Literacy and Popular Education will attempt to teach 1 million persons to read and write within the time frame of the program.

The plan was officially launched last 9 April in its first preparatory stage which will end next December. The next stage, called the execution stage, will be completed between January and June of 1984. Later the plan will enter the third, or consolidation stage.

All social sectors will mobilize for this purpose. And in the execution stage of the plan school activities in the secondary cycle will be suspended in all schools in the country as well as in the universities in order to work in the literacy campaign.

The labor sector, the teaching profession, the armed forces, the peasants and others will also collaborate in the campaign. The National Plan was approved by the Central Labor Office of Bolivia and by the Sole Union Confederation of Agricultural Laborers of Bolivia, among other popular organizations.

The process of teaching literacy, which will be continued, will be functional, psycho-sociological and socio-political, according to the report. It will be linked to the process of labor and production, it will present a critical and reflexive spirit to human reality and it will foster structural change and mobilization.

In the execution stage of the plan, the native languages and the cultural traits of each social sector will be utilized to teach literacy.

The communications media, especially radio and television, will be utilized as a medium for teaching literacy even in native languages. The essential contents will refer to production, nourishment, health and education for democracy.

A preliminary report on the plan says: "The tasks of literacy teaching properly called will be combined with the productive labors of each rural or marginal urban zone in such a way that by means of participation of the promoters and literacy groups in the life of the community, literacy will improve living conditions and significantly increase production.

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CSO: 3348/449

## NAVY MINISTER COMMENTS ON TORPEDO PRODUCTION, FUNDS SHORTAGE

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 15 May 83 p 23

[Text] Sao Paulo--The Navy Ministry is coordinating the negotiations between a private national industry and a foreign one for the production of torpedoes in Brazil (a military device that Brazil does not manufacture). The national torpedo, in addition to supplying the navy, will serve mainly for the generation of foreign exchange through an export program, and Navy Minister Admiral Maximiano da Fonseca admits that: "With exports of at least 80 torpedoes per year, that industry would become feasible in Brazil."

Preferring to maintain secrecy about the negotiations, the navy minister explained that the national industry interested in producing the torpedo is from Minas Gerais and that the technology will come from abroad. The negotiations should be concluded by the end of this year, with production beginning immediately. Admiral Maximiano da Fonseca granted an exclusive interview to the JORNAL DO BRASIL during his 2-day stay in Sao Paulo, making it a point to emphasize that "from now on" the program of renovating the national fleet "will no longer have any break of continuity." We produced torpedoes in this country more than 30 years ago and then we stopped. With a stoppage of that type, it is the nation that suffers a loss, he declared.

## Definition of the Missile

Maximiano da Fonseca is concerned about the search for the type of ideal missile that will be supplied to the corvettes produced in this country. "For the time being, we only have contacts; for that reason, I do not understand the fuss that was made about the Gabriel (a missile developed in Israel). We have bids from the Exocet (France), the Gabriel and the RB-S-15, a Swedish missile." With regard to the RB-S-15, Admiral Maximiano da Fonseca explained that casual contacts have already been made with the Swedes. The RB-S-15 is a new missile that took 20 years to be developed by the Swedish military industry.

"We are in a hurry to make that definition of the type of missile, the solution of which should occur by the end of the year, because we have to build its launchers on the national corvettes. Avibras, a national industry that has done much in the development of armament would be in condition to

present a design within 2 years, from what I read in the papers. That is too bad because we need a complete design now because of the corvettes," he declared.

On 1 July the navy is going to deliver for operation the first hospital-ship of Amazonia, and in September, it will launch its schoolship completely built in its navyyard; later, 12 corvettes (initially four units) will be produced.

The main problem of the Brazilian Navy is the lack of funds for investment. Its plan envisages the application of \$800 million in a period of 10 years, while the Argentine Navy, for example, is now applying \$3 billion on the renovation of its fleet. The navy minister considers the lack of funds a problem but explains that he understands "the current economic difficulties."

#### Antiquated Fleet

He explained that the lack of resources is preventing the renovation of the complement of planes of the aircraft carrier "Minas Gerais," which were classified by Admiral Maximiano da Fonseca as "antiquated, because they are antisubmarine planes. We do not have a naval aviation complement that will protect our ships in case of an air attack.

"The ideal would be to purchase at least 200 A-4 defense and attack jets that work with aircraft carriers. I know that Air Minister Delio Jardim de Matos is also struggling with the problem of lack of funds but, lacking a defense and attack evaluation, our ships remain unprotected. The AMX of the Brazilian Aeronautics Company (EMBRAER), a jet plane that will be produced in 1987 to operate on aircraft carriers would have to have its structure strengthened, which would cause an even longer delay. The old American A-4's, reconditioned, would help us greatly," said the navy minister.

He admitted also that the navy would need helicopters of the Puma type (produced by the French Aeroespatale), which carry 20 soldiers, to transport marines. The navy has six Esquilo helicopters purchased by Helibras, but they are small.

The philosophy of the Brazilian Navy is not to import ships in the future but to develop technology in Brazil. But Admiral Maximiano da Fonseca admitted that a polar ship will be purchased in Poland "because it would not make any sense to build only one unit of that type here when we can take advantage of the fact that Poland owes us and there can be an arrangement in that regard.

"As for the submarines, owing to the lack of financing, production of a unit in Germany has not yet begun. After the production of that unit, we will build one in Brazil," concluded the navy minister.

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## APRIL UNEMPLOYMENT RISES IN SIX MAJOR CITIES

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 2 Jun 83 p 21

[Text] Rio--The unemployment rate in April for the six major metropolitan areas in the country (Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Porto Alegre, Belo Horizonte, Recife and Salvador) reached 7.17 percent and was the highest since the beginning of the year, representing 1,045,980 workers out of work. Of this number, 882,481 were in a situation of open unemployment--they had previous employment ties, were dismissed and continue without recorded employment--and another 163,499 are workers who after having been laid off have lived on odd jobs and other activities of their own.

According to the figures released yesterday by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) Foundation, the highest unemployment rate, of 8.92 percent, occurred in Recife, where there were 86,808 unemployed in April. In the metropolitan area of Sao Paulo, the unemployment rate in April reached 7.30 percent, after having reached 7.03 percent in March, representing a total of 435,689 workers unemployed, 380,446 of which were in a situation of open employment and 55,243 living off odd jobs, without maintaining an employment link.

The IBGE Foundation reported also that the time of looking for a new job is increasing. That average was around 17 weeks as of April (as of March, it was 16.02 weeks).

Table 1

<u>Metropolitan Area</u>	<u>*PEA in April (in 1,000)</u>	<u>Open Unemployment</u>	<u>On Their Own</u>
Rio de Janeiro	3,672.6	242,024	54,722
Sao Paulo	5,211.6	380,446	55,243
Porto Alegre	1,001.6	70,913	9,816
Belo Horizonte	1,015.6	82,568	23,663
Recife	793.5	70,780	16,028
Salvador	619.6	35,750	4,027
Total	12,314.5	882,481	163,499

\*PEA--Economically active population excluding persons who are seeking employment for the first time.

Table 2

Open Employment Rate for Persons 15 Years Old and Over in 1983

<u>Metropolitan Area</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>
Rio de Janeiro	5.83	5.41	6.71	6.59
Sao Paulo	6.53	6.48	7.03	7.30
Porto Alegre	5.45	5.83	6.99	7.08
Belo Horizonte	7.58	7.13	7.97	8.13
Recife	6.96	7.14	8.37	8.92
Salvador	5.61	5.20	5.58	5.77
Average rate	6.30	6.14	7.02	7.17

Source: IBGE Foundation

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## FEDERAL POLICE INVESTIGATE SOCIALIST CONVERGENCE ACTIVITIES

## National Operation

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 31 May 83 p 13

[Text] Brasilia--The security and intelligence agencies of the federal government are planning a national and open operation against Socialist Convergence, making it illegal to have civil association with that name, which has its headquarters in Sao Paulo, and citing all of its leaders throughout the country under the National Security Law. A raid operation on all the headquarters of Convergence in Pernambuco, Ceara, Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Rio Grande do Sul, Maranhao and the Federal District scheduled for 1400 hours last Saturday was not carried out only because Justice Minister Ibrahim Abi-Ackel apparently did not have time to authorize the Department of Political and Social Order (DOPS) of the Federal Police to take the action.

On 23 May, the director general of the Federal Police, Colonel Moacir Coelho, forwarded to Abi-Ackel a 73-page report of a police inquiry (No 085/83) of the Regional Superintendency of the Federal Police in Belem, Para, with the addresses of Convergence or Foundation [Alicerce] of Socialist Youth in the seven states mentioned plus the Federal District. In an official memorandum (No 089/83), the colonel stated that the authorities charged with the investigations intend "to carry out searches to collect documents that will prove in a more material way the activities contrary to national security carried out by the aforementioned illegal organization."

Colonel Moacir Coelho presented "for the judicious consideration" of the minister of justice a "proposal regarding the timeliness of unleashing a police operation of this magnitude which will certainly have intense repercussion not only because of its dimensions--seven states and the federal district--but also because of the well-known connections that exist between Socialist Convergence and the Workers Party."

The first page of the report forwarded to the justice minister contains the addresses of the "apparatuses" of Convergence or Foundation in the cities of Belem, Imperatriz, Recife, Fortaleza, Belo Horizonte, Contagem, Brasilia, Rio de Janeiro, Porto Alegre, Passo Fundo, Sao Leopoldo, Campinas, Sao Jose dos Campos, Sao Carlos, Guarulhos, Osasco, Santo Andre, Sao Bernardo do Campo,

Sao Caetano and the different headquarters in the capital of Sao Paulo (two in the northern region, one being in Santana, others in the Parish of O, Santo Amaro, Penha and Lapa).

Those addresses are contained in a telex from the DOPS of Para annexed to the report, in which the chief presiding over the investigation, Moises Lima da Silva, states "'apparatuses' of the organization are probably operating, for which reasons this division advises of the possible need to carry out simultaneous searches with a view to corroborating its activities at the national level," In the telex, the chief requests the seizure of all printed, manuscript and typed material, as well as the accounting books, correspondence and leasing contracts.

Of the 22 names investigated by the DOPS of Para, chief Moises Lima da Silva believes that according to the proofs collected, the following can be cited under the National Security Law: Bernadete de Lourdes Rodriques de Menezes (Berna), Joao Batista Oliveira de Araujo (Baba), Francisco Antonio Cavalcanti Filho (Chico), Fernando Antonio Martins Carneiro (Nando), Carlos Vinicius Teles da Costa (Vinicius), Luzio Horacio Lima Neto (Luzio), Conceicao Rodriques de Menezes (Concha or Conchita) and Maristela dos Santos Lopes (Stela).

The chief states, further, that "in their capacity as members of Socialist Convergence and of the Foundation of Revolutionary Socialist Youth, they have been manifesting by their action a subversive political purpose aimed at coercing the political-social structure of the state; preaching struggle by violence between the social classes, revealing political-social nonconformity" which would justify being cited for the "commission of a crime envisaged in the National Security Law."

The investigations of Socialist Convergence or Foundation of Revolutionary Socialist Youth began with the complaint lodged with the police by the rector of the Federal University of Para, Guilherme Magalhaes Faria, who charged the member of that movement, Carlos Vinicius Teles da Costa with recruiting his daughter Elisabete de Fatima Dias Faria (Bete) "at the educational site" to join Convergence.

#### Ackel Confirms Action

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 1 Jun 83 p 10

[Text] Justice Minister Abi-Ackel confirmed in Curitiba yesterday that the Federal Police are investigating the activities of Socialist Convergence throughout the national territory and admitted that some leaders of the leftist organization may be cited under the National Security Law depending on the results of those investigations. He also revealed that other subversive groups may be investigated by the Federal Police Department.

"I have only received the memorandum from the police agency reporting the beginning of investigations, which do not depend on any authorization from the Ministry of Justice," declared the minister. "For the time being,

it is only a police investigation of the activities of that organization. If by chance the police collect evidence that justify the opening of an inquiry, that will be done. Otherwise, the matter will be filed away." Abi-Ackel did not state the reasons for that investigation and asserted that he had received an official memorandum from the Department of the Federal Police with only the report, "without entering into the merit of the matter."

In Brasilia, the secretary general of the Ministry of Justice, Arthur Pereira de Castilho, revealed yesterday that Abi-Ackel will not examine that matter until next week and asserted that for the time being there has not been any decision or measure taken by the ministry.

In the opinion of the Workers Party (PT) leader in the Federal Chamber, Deputy Ailton Soares, yesterday--admitting the connections between his party and Socialist Convergence to be "well-known"--"the federal government's plans to raid the headquarters of that association, outlaw it and cite its leaders under the National Security Law represent a political retrogression." Soares made it a point to mention that his party's political line differs from the Trotskyite line of that organization. He added that it plans to become an independent political party but at the moment it adheres to the program of the PT, although without any participation in the party leadership.

Only yesterday, that leftist group distributed a note to the press stating that "citing the Socialist Convergence is a charade inasmuch as that 'civil association' has already ceased to exist and the former sympathizers of the newspaper CONVERGENCIA SOCIALISTA today issue the newspaper ALICERCE DA JUVENTUDE SOCIALISTA." The note also reveals that "eight comrades who issue that newspaper are going to give testimony today "to open the citation proceedings under the National Security Law."

#### Convergence Condemns Investigation

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 2 Jun 83 p 9

[Text] The Socialist Convergence movement, which changed its name to Foundation of Socialist Youth distributed a note in Sao Paulo yesterday confirming the investigations of the Federal Police with reference to its members and newspaper, adding that the threat of invasions of its headquarters and being cited under the National Security Law are not supported by any charge. They are the result, says the communique, of "arbitrariness based on the National Security Law, an instrument that seeks to restrict the most elementary rights of the citizens."

The communique of the Trotskyite-oriented groups states also: "The members who today issue the newspaper ALICERCE DA JUVENTUDE SOCIALISTA reiterate their intention to continue to fight intransigently for the broadest democratic freedoms in our country." For that reason, it continues, "we do not accept and we do not recognize any legitimacy of the National Security Law, a key instrument of the repressive legislation of the military dictatorship and we are fighting for its revocation."

"For that reason, we do not accept and do not recognize any legitimacy for the Organic Law on Parties, which prevents the free organization of the currents of opinion that historically exist within the workers movement. We are fighting for the broad freedom of party organization, the right to legalization of the Brazilian Communist Party, the Communist Party of Brazil, and also the organizations that sympathize with the program of the Fourth International but which by virtue of the arbitrariness of current laws in the country cannot organize legally."

#### Insignificant

In Rio de Janeiro, according to military authorities, including generals, the activity of that leftist movement, which maintains its point of interest in the student sector, is not very significant. According to the military, the main interest of Convergence is to create its own leaderships among second-level students, a trend assumed after it confirmed its weakness in the universities, where it did not achieve the penetration it sought.

According to the assessment of the military, the activities of Socialist Convergence in Rio may increase to the degree that it will obtain positive results among the second-level students, where it plans to establish a positive connection with the universities. According to professor Colonel Tito Avilez, who taught philosophy in the Military College and conducted second-level courses in addition to helping youths as a psychologist, in order to neutralize the action of organizations of the Socialist Convergence-type among the students, it would be necessary to promote debates on new political propositions and with more realism on Brazilian problems. He also proposes the "reform of the teaching profession because today when one goes to a university one many times can verify that it is some professors who have stimulated the option of Marxism."

#### Headquarters Invaded

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Jun 83 p 9

[Text] Osasco--The headquarters of Socialist Convergence and its successor Foundation of Socialist Youth which operates at 532 Antonio Agu Street, Room 9, in the center of Osasco, was invaded by unknown persons who pillaged its premises, destroyed books and files and possibly removed various documents. Pamphlets and magazines were torn and scattered around the room. A complete survey of the damage will not be completed until the end of the week, according to organization officials.

Yesterday afternoon, Socialist Convergence issued a note on the invasion, stating that "the act of vandalism was coordinated by the government agents by order of Justice Minister Ibrahim Abi-Ackel." According to the note, "this action is another attack on the right of organization and expression, added to the many attacks against the rights of the citizen. The government promised and is fulfilling the announced measures that are going to increase the hunger and misery of the people."

This document was read by a member of the organization in the presence of the councilmen of Osasco, Rosa Lopes Martins of the Workers Party, Ananias Neto and Enilson Lopes of the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMBD) who expressed their solidarity. Members of Convergence were invited by the three councilmen to come to the Osasco Municipal Chamber on Tuesday to request the support of the other councilmen.

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## BRIEFS

SOCIALIST PARTY PLANNING--Brasilia--"The proposal for establishing a Socialist Party in Brazil exists and is being discussed within the congress," said Deputy Elquisson Soares (Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB) for Bahia) in a lengthy speech yesterday. He stressed, however, that that discussion "is in a preliminary stage without any connotation of recruitment and with concern to avoid upsets." According to Elquisson, the studies emerged from the "atmosphere of preplexity that exists in view of the political, economic and social situation of the country and the need to find the means to transform congress into a real, popular power by strengthening the PMDB, the Democratic Workers Party (PDT) and the Workers Party (PT) or through the creation of a new party, in this case the Socialist Party." Although he considered the discussion of the current crisis to be the priority item, the deputy said that he decided to clarify "that question of the Socialist Party because of the reports that have been mentioning cooptation, recruitment and meetings with state governors, which is not true." The Bahia deputy asked, from the speaker's platform, the governor of Rio de Janeiro, Leonel Brizola, "not to hasten to change the name of PDT or propose the immediate creation of another party to avoid deceiving Brazilian society." [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 21 May 83 p 2] 8711

CSO: 3342/123



## LAN-CHILE LOSSES FOR 1982 TOTAL \$30 MILLION

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 2 Jun 83 p B1

[Text] The National Airline (Lan-Chile) suffered a loss of 2.25 billion pesos, equivalent to US \$30 million, according to the yearly report published yesterday.

The loss is slightly lower than the 1981 deficit, when Lan had \$34 million in red ink. This fact would seem to indicate that the state aviation enterprise's losses are due not only to the recession that hit the Chilean economy in 1982, but have been building up for several years. The financial problem continued to plague the company even in years of strong expansion, such as 1981.

The report indicates that Lan suffered an operational loss of \$18 million, which is 28 percent higher than the 1981 figure. The non-operational loss, which is particularly influenced by financial costs, amounted to US \$11 million.

## Controller Notes

In addition, the General Controller of the Republic issued a ruling on the Lan-Chile economic results, noting a series of limitations and delays in the company's bookkeeping.

For that reason, the Controller "refrained from issuing an opinion" on Lan's balance sheet.

## Principal Creditors

The enterprise's short-term bank debts total \$16 million, while its obligations for more than 1 year total \$31 million.

Among its principal creditors are the Orion Bank, to which Lan owes US \$30 million, Citicorp, the Bank of Tokyo and Irving Inter-American.

Moreover, the national financial institutions that lent funds to Lan-Chile include the Edwards and Concepcion Banks.

#### Board of Directors

The Lan-Chile Board of directors is chaired by Col Francisco Ramirez Migliassi, and its other members are Enrique Yavar, Arturo Varela, Raul Dinator, Enrique Alvarez Kladt, and Patricio Sepulveda Ceron.

The latter also serves as president of the company.

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## HAITIAN IMMIGRATION PROBLEMS, POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS ANALYZED

Cayenne LA PRESSE DE GUYANE in French 13, 14, 16 May 83

[Article by Paul Benninger: "Immigration in French Guiana"]

[13 May 83 pp 1, 4]

[Text] The journal ALIZES, in its May-June 1983 issue, published a report on immigration in French Guiana, focusing on Haitian immigration.

This is without a doubt the most difficult problem in the French Guiana of today. The author of this article, Paul Benninger, has visited French Guiana several times and is a member of a group that is experienced in social analysis and intervention, the Methods Research Group (GRM).

This report is GRM's contribution to the thinking now going on concerning the immigration problem in French Guiana. For the past several years the GRM has been providing support training to various groups and associations in French Guiana. It very quickly became apparent to the group that the matter of immigration was posing an urgent problem of first priority in the French Guianese social domain.

This concern constituted an essential dimension of the support. The GRM's experience, past and present, with migration problems predisposed us to play a modest part in the thinking we are proposing here.

Two important facts arise in the context of our earlier visit (October and November 1982):

1. A collective awareness on the part of the Haitians of their numbers and the potential for them to "group together" and meet (nearly 600 Haitians attended the first meeting of the association for solidarity with the Haitian community).
2. An awareness on the part of the administration of the necessity of opening the immigration question to the various partners concerned. This was actualized by creating a wide open working group, on the initiative of the commissioner of the Republic of French Guiana.

These facts do not lessen the gravity of the situation. Recent statements by certain local politicians testify to the seriousness of the problem (cf. the statements of Deputy Castor and Senator-Mayor Tarcy).

In this article we will focus on the problem of Haitian immigration and deal secondarily with other immigrations. The former calls for swift concrete measures by virtue of the number of immigrants, between 15,000 and 18,000 persons, according to official estimates.

#### Migration in the Specific Context of French Guiana

1. The French Guianese themselves are involved in the migratory experience: emigration to the capital.
2. Immigration in French Guiana is carried out in the context of a certain "structural fragility":
  - a. difficulty of evoking the country's development plans;
  - b. little success resulting from earlier development experiments;
  - c. uncertainty as to which broad options should be taken;
  - d. fragility as to expression of an identity at the level of real life;
  - e. anxiety in perceiving the future, which makes a possible choice difficult, for example that of a birthrate-based type of immigration, directed toward the country's development.
3. A certain "immigrant" past which is to be shouldered. This unfolded under painful historical conditions (slavery, etc.).
4. Absence of economic context for calling upon manpower for an economic type of immigration.
5. French Guiana is also a "consumption enclave," but in a somewhat artificial economic context marked by welfare. There are few production activities.
6. French Guiana is situated in an under-developed geographic environment which in the case of Haiti is one of */famine/* [in italics] conditions and struggle for survival. Moreover, French Guiana is a center of attraction for a whole population that is ill at ease but has aspirations for consumption and various freedoms.
7. Haiti's political situation is producing emigre of the */politico-economic/* [in italics] type who needs to survive as a man and as a human (in his body). This is actually the type of emigre who is appearing today in our developed society (cf. the massive demands of political refugees, which for the most part are first economic refugee demands and secondarily political, which is why it is difficult to tell them apart).

Today we have such a microcosm in French Guiana, the situation of the metropolis in relation to a North-South thrust.

8. The native-to-immigre population ratio.

We will rule out any reference to an idea of threshold of tolerance, which is not at all scientific (without going into detail, which would take too long: in order for there to be a certain period of intolerance, before that threshold there would have had to be acceptance of the other in his difference, which is practically never the case), and which seems to us to especially ill-adapted here.

The fact remains that this ratio is too significant. Supposing there are 15,000 Haitians (testimony is in agreement), 5,000 Brazilians and 5,000 from various other countries, this means that 33 percent of the population is foreign, a majority of them clandestine (undoubtedly 25 percent).

The gravity lies less in the percentage of foreigners in relation to the total population than in the immigrant population ratio and the numerical weakness of the total native population (73,000 inhabitants).

Except for the case of a "colonization" migration of the populating type, this situation is serious and exceptional.

All of these eight factors combined serve to explain an overall "fear" reaction, discernible even among persons who are very open and heavily involved in the local associative fabric.

The GRM would like to thank all those persons who agreed to talk with us in informal interviews. Those talks form the basis for the possible proposals we are submitting to the local authorities, which are available on request afterwards.

[14 May 83 pp 1, 4]

#### Proposals for Clarifying the Situation

It is obviously imperative that the situation be clarified. This can be done by sorting out those persons having a "working relationship."

The indispensable partners in such an evaluation are the labor unions.

#### I. Point of View of the Trade Union Organizations of Salaried Workers

The UTG [expansion unknown] has a sufficiently keen knowledge of the problem to contribute to a clarification of the situation.

The UTG group is well known to many Haitians, and they refer to it with the problems they encounter. It is an important asset, but one that affects the least fragile, those whose working relationship appears to be the most explicit.

With good reason, the UTG is careful in relation to any individual or associative initiative, of foreign or other origin, to intervene in an intervention process in favor of the workers. The danger of a certain clientelism and a

quest for power in a foreign population would thus be removed, thanks to the acknowledged responsibility of the union organization. The intervention of the unions in the regularization campaign in the metropolis has been significant.

The associative sector may contribute to it, but not exclusively. If we may take up the point of view of the union organizations, it breaks down into three points:

1. a call for clarification;
2. stopping immigration and closing the borders, except to qualified persons;
3. no systematic expulsions, but the sometimes desired turning away of non-active persons.

Stopping immigration (closing the borders) seems difficult to accomplish, no border is watertight any more, and a border control is not simple to set in motion.

On the other hand, clarification would allow a renewable temporary part to be issued, in the sense that it would only be allotted on the basis of the existence of a working relationship to be flexibly defined. The issuance of visitor's and working permits would be gradual, depending on the nature of the ties with the employer or the applicant's progress.

Turning away non-active persons in this context, in the absence of the temporary part, could then be an option.

The CDTG [expansion unknown], which truly expresses the malaise of the milieu of clerical employees and middle managers, emphasizes the cost aspect of immigration. This is also the initial step adopted by the commission that met on the initiative of the prefecture. It seems to us to be useful to take that aspect into account, but the angle of attack on the problem seems to us /open to criticism/ [in italics] and in any case "traditional" in taking migrant problems into account. It carries with it a priori differences that are well known to closed societies or societies under attack:

- foreigners fill hospitals, schools, prisons;
- foreigners put a strain on the budgets of Social Security, Social Welfare and Family Allowances.

People forget other assessable elements, the fact that they are consumers and also "producers" much of the time, and that a number of rights result from this situation.

The fact remains that in the French Guianese context in the hypothesis of a clarification, it is necessary to put an end to "influence traffic" practices that allow access to social advantages to persons who do not have such rights.

In the same way as the employer of moonlighters who favors clandestine immigration, the citizen will have to renounce certain practices having to do with



foreigners. There will be no clarification without surplus and renewed public-spiritedness. Access to rights must exist for all who have a working relationship.

## 11. Point of View of Political Leaders

The political class does not have a uniform way of expressing the problems posed by immigration. However, there is unanimity of points of view around the idea of "closure" of the borders, but the limitations of such a measure are well known.

Some express the necessity of reflecting on the place occupied by "foreigners" in the local economy. This step should be capable of inspiring the working groups that result from the prefectural commission.

It is certain that the entire French Guianese political class is not ready to envisage measures "favorable" to the "foreign" population. Some of their statements are good illustrations of this point of view.

However, the common widespread sensitivity to the question of human rights makes it possible to proceed toward certain measures.

It is not a matter, once more, of favoring a non-native population (cf. the /method/ [in italics] of introducing the hmongs), but of providing a number of homeopathic measures that would fall within the perspective of human rights and respect for the elementary freedoms. A political personage who seems to us well placed to evaluate what is "possible" and "manageable" locally is the mayor of Cayenne. We were able to appraise his attitude toward the problem of the inhabitants of the Digue Leblond in the Paletuviers neighborhood. He expressed the possibility of supporting a population whose majority is foreign as part of rehabilitation and development, but said it should be done prudently and without too many specific privileges.

A project such as that of the Catholic Aid (Father Ryo's project) to "colonize the land" with Haitians risks being badly received and coming too much from outside the country. We say this in all frankness, even while we appreciate the many positive aspects of this community-type project.

It would be better to support more modest projects at the level of the neighborhoods of living units, while taking into account an overall urban or peri-urban policy.

Although we emphasize this point of view, we must say that we have met some French Guianese who were putting forth the potential dynamism of a Haitian-born population for the country's agricultural development. The question that would then be asked of this community would be, in the end, as follows: "Do you feel French Guianese?"

[16 May 83 pp 1, 4]

## Proposals for Clarifying the Situation

### III. Stakes in a Dialogue With the Associative Sector

The associations of foreign origin or coming out of the foreigners' milieu make up this sector. In our opinion it would be dangerous if they were to become the single interlocutor of the administration. They are but one of the possible interlocutors. Our reservations are based on the following reasons:

#### A. Reservations

1. Any immigration is shot through with diverse political currents. Proclaiming apoliticism is not an adequate guarantee for political use. One must be aware that there are almost 40 diverse movements in opposition to the Haitian government. In addition to this, there is the governmental group itself.
2. We hear it said easily that the Haitian milieu is "Macoute." Although we do not claim to have covered the whole question, we must say that this judgment is perhaps excessive. Can you not call "Macoute" any individual who exploits his countrymen in one area or another? Well, every immigration, when it becomes numerically significant, knows that kind of individual.
3. In the case of the Haitians in French Guiana, for the same reason as the eight points stressed in the beginning of this article, prudence is imperative with respect to any form of counter-government that is too assertive and affects a local population. Some actions, for example on the subject of autonomous justice, could appear to be attacks on the local sovereignty, or even the development, if it were the case of a "Macoute"-type government, and this seems to us to constitute a danger. During our stay a political movement, the RNDP [expansion unknown], made contact with the Haitian population and others will follow: the IFOPADA [expansion unknown], etc. The organization of Haitian emigration abroad appears an inevitable fact. The presence on French soil of 40,000 Haitians (10,000 in the metropolis, 5,000 in Martinique, 10,000 in Guadeloupe, French Guiana 15,000 and more in St Martin) is a new bit of information for the French government in its policy toward the Haitian government and relations yet to be defined with the opposition movements.

The "Caribbean" is a not inconsiderable factor in the evaluation.

#### B. Proposals:

Favoring development of an associative sector based on the /neighborhoods/ [in italics] in particular, seems to us to be of great importance; for example, in the "Bonhomme" district, development of social action, literacy, improvement of living conditions by the inhabitants themselves. It would be desirable for a French Guianese association to be able to exist to treat

all of the problems visited upon the French Guianese society by immigration. It could guarantee respect for human rights and concern for equity. It could make the French Guianese sensitive to the immigration problem (causes, effects, etc.).

We had the pleasure of meeting local personalities who would be completely suited to the task of leading such an association.

Moreover, we consider useful the creation of an association for leadership training for public servants with a low level of initial training, including immigrant workers (those of the Kourou CNES [expansion unknown] or further development of this type of training activities by the GRETA [expansion unknown]).

Diversification of the associative sector, if not excessive, seems to us to be a good thing; in particular the indispensable involvement of the French Guianese themselves is of primary importance. Mr Labbe, the president of the Association for Solidarity With the Haitian Community, has stressed this desire to "open out," and has rightly stressed it. There should be no projects without cooperative effort, without the participation of the French Guianese.

We should like to return to Father Ryo's project and place it in relation to the proposed clarification operation. This training/employment project in the agricultural sector could address itself to Haitians who were unable to prove any working relationship, and who in the present context could not consider an immediate return to Haiti. This place would be a kind of "sas" (transition) while awaiting the potential reimplantation project. Several conditions would be necessary:

1. Involvement of local French Guianese leaders from the project's conception and refusal of any project originating outside the country.
2. Calling for volunteers before creating conditions for a return (payment of debts, supplies, security, prospects for activities in Haiti).
3. The project must not appear to be preferential with respect to those who would obtain a temporary permit.

We think the clarification period will be a relatively long one, but the regularization phase should be /short/[in italics], in order to prevent "an intake of air," which is produced in the city; great clarity is also needed in the procedure. The first of these temporary permits could be delivered in the course of the campaign. For other immigrant communities in French Guiana, we think the Brazilians constitute a temporary manpower immigration and the proximity of the border facilitates crossing back and forth. French Guianese natives seem to pose a special problem. As for the Surinamers, the development of that neighboring country, which is currently in a critical phase, will show whether or not it is an implantation immigration. As for the islands (St Lucia, Dominique, etc.), this immigration is more like Haiti's; it is also a Caribbean problem affecting all of the DOM [overseas departments].

In conclusion, we should like to emphasize how much it appears to us that a concern for elementary human rights--respecting them and seeing that they are respected--is of primary importance. In this connection, we would like the situation of the Haitians in St Martin to be examined with the utmost urgency.

Although an active clarification policy is being conducted, which is naturally difficult, we think there is no justification for maintaining the provisions of the Bonnet Law in the DOM and proper enforcement of the common laws and rules (October 1981 law, entries and sojourns by foreigners).

We should like to emphasize that this report is binding only upon its author, that he is motivated solely by a concern for helping to seek solutions to a crucial problem. Rather than remaining vague and at the level of a theoretical study, we were trying, at the risk of making a mistake, to put forth an analysis and these proposals. We hope that our interlocutors will find them positive and useful.

8946

CSO: 3219/30

## TRADE CONGRESS STATES CONCERNS, ADOPTS RESOLUTION

Cayenne LA PRESSE DE GUYANE in French 27 Apr 83 pp 1, 4

[Text] On conclusion of the sixth congress of the departmental union of the Workers Force Unions held on 23 and 24 April 1983, the following bureau was elected:

Secretary general  
Assistant secretaries

Joseph Xzvero  
Nicolas Suivant  
Suzanne-Francine Macia  
Arsene Methon  
Joseph Chung-A-Long  
Rene Joseph  
Robert Ardisson

Treasurer  
Assistant treasurer

After electing the bureau, the congress approved the following resolution:  
Considering the workers' loss in purchasing power following implementation of the austerity plan;

Considering the lack of legal status for employees recruited under the Local Development Fund and their exploitation by the administration;

Considering that Guiana's development plan has not fulfilled its promises and that one of the only successful operations, the Carapa project, does not seem to have maintained continuity after the withdrawal of the ANT [expansion unknown], and is moving in the direction of abandonment of the farmers to a nonfunctioning cooperative and disappearance of the structures established;

Considering the decrepit condition of Guiana's hospitals and the inadequacy at the technical level;

Considering the increase in clandestine immigration into Guiana and the proliferation of slums;

Considering the growing insecurity of individuals and property in the department;

Considering the inappropriateness and inadequacy of occupational training in Guiana;

The Workers Force Unions of Guiana, assembled in congress,

Call for improvement in the workers' purchasing power;

Demand the inclusion in their functional staffs of the employees paid under the Local Development Fund;

Call for urgent establishment of adequate structure to assure continuity of the Carapa operation;

Call for construction of hospitals at Cayenne and renovation of the Saint-Laurent hospital;

Call for increased control of immigration;

Call for strengthening of security measures;

Desire the establishment of occupational training appropriate to Guiana's needs, in cooperation with the union organizations.

9920

CSO: 3219/31

## COMMUNISTS SHOW LITTLE INTEREST IN FORMING POLITICAL PARTY

Guatemala City EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 7 May 83 pp 1, 8

[Text] The misinformation existing among a large number of citizens is the consequence of inadequate or untimely information about those events or happenings that take place in the nation, according to some politicians who were consulted with regard to "the effects that were gained by the government's reply to the MLN (National Liberation Movement) and the comments that this party made regarding the matter."

Lawyer Rodolfo Maldonado of the Guatemalan Christian Democratic party said it is noteworthy that things always fall in their proper place, since that is one of the bases of democracy. The people should be informed about what is taking place in the nation since it has suffered many times from a lack of information, akin to an oversight or political amnesia.

It is of interest that facts be made known, he added, even when they may have happened some time ago. We believe that the validity of electoral fraud in 1974, or the ones that followed, that it is necessary that its extent be made known so that it not continue as an object of manipulation and that those who have been proven to have taken part in some way in electoral frauds should explain their position, the Christian Democratic leader said.

Mr Albert Antoniotti, from MLN's public relations, said, except for statements that outline MLN's official position as regards the government's reply, that MLN believes that no reply was forthcoming to the points raised by the party, since they were deliberations made by the minister of interior, whom we consider, he said, to be the person least suitable to give such an ill-advised reply, since they were, moreover, accusations against the National Liberation Movement.

Lawyer Napoleon Alfaro, leader of the Revolutionary Party--one of the government officials defeated last March--said, on commenting about the reply made by the government, that they considered it a highly interesting reply since it placed in objective evidence a series of data on the political history of the nation.

It is undoubtedly, he added, that when we paid attention only to certain chapters concerning political events in the nation, we forgot data that can be very important and that form part of recent Guatemalan history.

We think that these attitudes and situations should make us totally frank and sincere with the people.



POLITICIANS: GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INFORM PUBLIC ADEQUATELY

Guatemala City EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 6 May 83 pp 1, 6

[Text] Not until now has there been any anxiety within the extreme Left sector in the nation to become a political party or entity in the public law; nevertheless, its officers, which include the president of the republic, General Rios Montt and Col Ricardo Mendez Ruiz, minister of interior, have expressed outwardly their interest that "a Guatemalan communist party" be founded.

Recently the aforesaid official, the minister of interior, stated he had said so several times, or in other words, "we are very interested that those citizens with Marxist-Leninist leanings, upright and productive people who want to organize a party, can do so."

Whoever tries to form such a party, he added, will enjoy all the constitutional guarantees including those enjoyed currently by political groups which are, in actuality, "committees."

He made it clear that there is a difference between the Marxist-Leninist and the abductor-assassin. As for political amnesty, he said that this attracts that individual who wants to put down his weapons so he can return to his home and to a civilian existence. With regard to the accomplishments of this measure, he said they are near at hand, now that thousands of citizens have been included in this pardoning of crimes.

9908

CSO: 3248/819

## VALUE ADDED TAX PROGRAM, PRESS CONFERENCE DRAW CRITICISM

## Will Recover Lost Revenue

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 19 May 83 p 4

[Text] The aim of tax reform, in addition to reactivating the nation's economy and other factors, is to recover 150 million quetzals in 6 months, of the nearly 400 million in taxes that have been evaded, stated the minister of public finances, Dr Leonardo Figueroa Villate, yesterday.

Another goal is to provide incentives for production and to improve the competitiveness of exports, as well as increase fiscal revenues in order to improve the government's spending and investment capacity and to shore up the balance of payments and the parity of the quetzal so that our currency will not have to be devalued.

These objectives, he said, are national in scope, and are not limited simply to improving the budget situation, because the government represents just a small part of the economy as a whole. The tax modifications are viewed within the general context of public finances and fiscal policy as instruments of economic reactivation within a framework of stability and a strong quetzal.

## Objectives of Tax Reform

The purposes of tax reform in economic policy are threefold: 1) incentives to production and improved competitiveness of exports; 2) increased fiscal revenues in order to improve the government's spending and investment capacity; and 3) support for the balance of payments and the parity of the quetzal.

As for the first objective, it was explained that just by stepping up the country's production levels and expanding our exports, we will be able to create employment and well-being among Guatemalans. Concerning the second goal, only by obtaining additional income and guarantees can resources be allocated to the poorest sectors of the country, for health, education and housing projects, programs in which the private sector does not invest because they do not yield profits.

With regard to shoring up the balance of payments and the exchange rate of our currency, only by raising the sum of our foreign reserves through stimuli to exports and the entry of capital, the rationalization of our imports, and less consumption of non-essential goods, can the balance of payments be brought back into equilibrium and the quetzal be strengthened. These conditions are necessary for reactivating production in the country.

#### Origin and Consequences

The minister stated that the need to reform the tax system stemmed from the flight of capital, the fall in the price of our exports and the reduction of the profit margin, the severe contraction of private investment, the deterioration of the Central American Common Market, and the high fiscal deficits, financed by printing more money.

As for the consequences, Figueroa Villate listed them as a shortage of foreign reserves and vulnerability in maintaining the value of the quetzal, high unemployment, increased social deficits, more deprivation among the rural population, and financial limitations imposed on spending for health, education, housing, agricultural services and social security.

#### Not As Others Say

The official stated that his ministry has studied and proposed a tax reform whose justification is not what is generally assumed by interested national sectors, merely raising fiscal revenues in view of the central government's difficult financial straits.

"The current government has undertaken an analysis of the factors that have led to the socio-economic state of our country, and therefore we can assure you that this tax reform reflects our understanding of the situation," added the minister.

#### PID Shows Past Failures

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 22 May 83 pp 3, 30

[Text] The Democratic Institutional Party (PID) released a document severely criticizing the government's decision to levy the value added tax (VAT), claiming it will aggravate the country's already battered economy.

The PID states that although the final form of the VAT is not yet known, this measure has already caused mistrust and fear among the country's productive forces and among the consuming public itself, which expects the worst. This leads one to believe that the tax will be universally rejected.

"That tax, like it or not, will have an impact on wage levels, with the consequent increase in the cost of living. Moreover, family savings, if there are any at all now, will be reduced to zero.

"The VAT," it goes on to say, "is a variation on the sales tax which tends to affect all goods and services produced by business firms, with certain

exceptions in proportion to value, in one or several stages, or also in all phases of the productive cycle, generally at the moment the production is made effective by having the product sold.

"Historically, it is a tax which has been levied on certain products, luxury or non-essential items, but that limit has been exceeded gradually until all sales are covered, and within the technique of taxation, it is considered a general consumption tax.

"In Europe, in 1967, it was discovered that the VAT is damaging to countries' economies after several attempts at imposing it. In our context, we find it curious that in the countries where it has been attempted, the enforcement of the tax has been preceded by comprehensive studies and prolonged debates involving all sectors of the population.

"In this way, the effects that this tax has had on countries where it has already been imposed are well known. Here in Guatemala, its implementation is announced overnight, without the taxpayers' having any knowledge of the text of the law in question.

"The PID," concludes the document, "cannot look favorably on this attempt to levy a tax which will affect the needy the most, and therefore it reiterates to the people of Guatemala its unshakable decision to fight in defense of their vital interests and not to give up in its struggle to build a dignified, great, civilized fatherland."

#### FUN: Improve Tax Collection

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 19 May 83 p 4

[Text] If it merely acted on the principle of orderliness in collecting current taxes, the government would be fulfilling its responsibility of carrying out social programs without having to resort to the value added tax (VAT), says the secretary general of the Nationalist United Front (FUN), Gabriel Giron Ortiz.

He says that "when times are tough," it is not appropriate to levy new taxes. "A FUN committee," he adds, "made a study on whether the VAT should be implemented, and reached the following conclusions:

"In view of the dramatic situation the people are undergoing, the state of confusion due to economic, political and social destabilization, and the violence that threatens to erupt because of common events and skirmishes between subversives and government security forces; and

"In defense of a system and of the struggle to change structures, the concentration of public power in a single government institution, the army, which at this time has the grave responsibility of leading the country through the channels of institutionalism to reach a legitimate government as soon as possible that can guarantee the free practice of democracy; for all these reasons, the FUN has reached the following conclusion:

"That it is an incontrovertible fact that since 1821 we have been losing the nation's sovereignty, honor and independence for reasons that are all too well known: the country's economic insolvency, with a foreign debt of more than \$1.6 billion, the tacit devaluation of our currency by 40, up to 42 percent, and the great number of taxes created to date, all of which has contributed to the dire straits of the national economy.

"Then," he concludes, "the lack of money in circulation makes the implementation of the VAT inappropriate. Whether we like it or not, that tax could provoke social disturbances, because although it is true that any government entity must be able to obtain material resources for the survival and development of the state, it is also true that if anarchy reigns in all orders of public life, the collection of the taxes created to date is rendered ineffective.

"For this reason, we believe that just by acting in an orderly fashion to carry out the collection of taxes, the government would be fulfilling its responsibility of implementing social programs, and would never have to think about the counterproductive measure of imposing new taxes that would further aggravate the distress the nation is already undergoing."

PR: Middle Class Affected

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 22 May 83 p 3

[Text] "The value added tax (VAT) will cause considerable damage to the middle class because it will be forced to draw on its savings to survive, said Raul Alvarado Pinelo, secretary of finance of the Revolutionary Party (PR).

Alvarado is one of the new faces in that political entity, along with Napoleon Alfaro, Bruno Brolo and others who used to be the dissidents of the party.

When interviewed, Alvarado stated that one of the main objectives of the VAT is to invigorate the national treasury by collecting more taxes. The idea would be magnificent if that capital were redistributed among the most needy and unemployed sectors, as occurs in some European countries where the state contributes a sum of money to people who are out of work or have trouble working.

"In Guatemala," he went on, "that tax, in addition to sharpening inflation, has a direct negative impact on the lower classes and particularly on the so-called middle class.

"Peasants, for example, will have to pay the VAT on transportation by pickup truck, transport of agricultural products, purchase of goods, and finally, on a series of things that did not used to be taxed for them.

"The middle class, which is generally accustomed to putting away small amounts of savings for emergencies, will be forced to spend the pittance they have managed to save over a long time when the VAT is implemented, especially considering the high degree of unemployment there is in Guatemala.

"For all these reasons," explained Alvarado, "the PR cannot accept the VAT, although I should point out that at this time I am expressing a personal opinion."

#### PR Stands for Unity

In another part of his statements, the PR leader indicated that the party's provisional committee has united all the other factions that in years past, for various reasons, had been dissidents.

"For example, among the top leaders are former presidential candidates Mario Fuentes Peruccinni and Col Ernesto Paiz Novales, as well as Mario Mendez Martinez, son of the late revolutionary leader Mario Mendez Montenegro. Other professionals are also joining the ranks of the PR."

#### CACIF Members Protest

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 20 May 83 p 2

[Text] Thirty representatives of the private sector, businessmen who are members of CACIF [Coordinating Committee of Agricultural, Commercial, Industrial, and Financial Associations], tried yesterday to walk out on a meeting at the Ministry of Public Finance as a demonstration of their dismay at not being provided with copies of the bills on tax reform.

Officials at the ministry were about to begin the announced explanations of the new tax package when the incident occurred.

#### Incident at Finance

The CACIF members decided to leave the conference room at the Ministry in protest because they were refused access to advance copies of the bills that contain the tax package to be implemented effective 1 July of this year. But Finance Minister Leonardo Figueroa Villate asked them to listen to the presentation. The event was carried out, but in an atmosphere of tension and irritation, according to businessmen.

The explanation, which was presented by Second Vice-Minister Armando Boesche and various Ministry experts, was interrupted when architect Ronald Dent, president of the Chamber of Commerce, and engineer Carlos Sprighmul, president of the Chamber of Industry, asked for copies of the bills so that they could study the matter further.

Their request was denied, so the businessmen decided to leave the room. It was at that moment that Figueroa Villate arrived, and asked them to stay and listen to the explanation. They consented, but first they expressed their discontent with the refusal to give them the bills.

Last night it was reported that the bills may be published today in the Official Gazette.



## Sprighmul Speaks

As a result of the incident, Carlos H. Sprighmul, president of the Chamber of Industry, stated that once the problem had been cleared up the session could continue.

"We can be present," he declared, "to listen to everything they have to say to us. The only thing is, we will not ask questions. But there will be open communication so that we can be apprised of the manner in which the tax reform will be implemented."

He also referred to the press, asking reporters to note that the information on the tax tables would be "just one part, since we will not have the opportunity to ask a lot of questions due to lack of complete familiarity."

## Error in Letters

Ronald Dent, president of the Chamber of Commerce, stated that there had been an error in the exchange of letters between the Ministry and the Chamber before the meeting. In recognizing this error, they had decided to remain to listen to the Finance Ministry experts, but he cautioned that their presence there did not mean that they condoned the tax reform bills.

## State Council Requests Copy

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 20 May 83 p 2

[Text] Council Minister Juan Carlos Simons, representing the Chamber of Commerce before the Council of State, asked that body in a plenary session yesterday to request that the president's office send the Council the tax program that was announced the day before yesterday by the finance minister at a press conference.

Council Minister Simons stated that Minister Figueroa Villate was not explicit in his presentation at the press conference, but he announced that the tax package had been sent to the president's office; therefore, it would be appropriate to request to see the program so that the Council of State could examine it and express an opinion.

"We all know," said Simons, "that the finance minister was invited to appear before this organization to provide some explanation of the tax plan, but he declined. Surprisingly, he appeared on the television network in a press conference, reporting on such aspects, and it was no longer possible to hear him in the Council. It would be a good idea now to request that the president's office forward a copy of the program to us so that we can issue an opinion."

Finally, Dr Ricardo Asturias Valenzuela indicated that he also had seen Figueroa Villate on television explaining a series of aspects related to the tax package.



"I was struck by the fact that he issued invitations to important sectors of the population, but did not mention cooperativists, workers, women, and other sectors which are represented on the Council of State.

"Thus, we should request that since he invited various sectors, he include the organizations that are represented on the Council of State in order to provide a clearer orientation on the matter."

#### Government Will Consider Opinions

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 20 May 83 p 2

[Text] "The government will take into consideration the opinions expressed by individuals and juridical persons on the tax reform program, but only when these opinions are offered on the basis of firm convictions, not speculation," said the secretary general of the President's Office, Col Manuel de Jesus Giron Tanechez, yesterday.

The official stated that he had in his possession the bills that will launch the tax reform, which had been drafted by the Finance Ministry.

"These bills will be analyzed and studied, and then drafted in their final form before they are signed or sanctioned by the president of the republic. Of course," he asserted, "the executive will accept any opinions people care to express on various aspects, but those interested in doing so should wait until the formal bills are submitted, ready to be passed. They should not engage in speculation."

8926

CSO: 3248/875

## DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE SUPPORTS RIOS MONTT'S POLITICAL OPENING

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 2 May 83 p 18

[Text] Democratic Alliance (AD) supports the political opening which President Rios Montt has set in motion, because it will provide an opportunity to take part in the election process to groups previously excluded, according to a statement made to PRENSA LIBRE by the secretary general of the party's organizing committee, Leopoldo Urrutia Beltran.

The party leader was interviewed by a PRENSA LIBRE reporter on the topic of the three laws enacted by the government on 23 March 1983 charting the route whereby the nation will return to constitutional government.

Urrutia said that the laws, although they set no date for the future election, are important and deserving of credence precisely because President Rios Montt wants the future voting to be conducted in a completely upright manner, without manipulations of any sort.

Asked about the Guatemalan exiles who are about to return to the nation, taking advantage of the reconciliation amnesty which will last for another 30 days, Urrutia Beltran said the measure is an excellent one, but guarantees should be given to prevent repressive action against the exiles.

Urrutia noted, "hopefully the professionals who left the country in 1954 and now have attained international renown in exile will return to their homeland."

In closing, Urrutia reiterated that the AD committee is gaining strength at various levels from young people who are calling the organization "the committee of hope."

11,989

CSO: 3248/821

## PID PRAISES RIOS MONTT'S ELECTION LAWS

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 2 May 83 p 18

[Text] "The laws which have been enacted to govern politics cannot deceive anyone, and the Democratic Institutional Party (PID) has confidence in them," according to a statement made yesterday by the secretary general of the party's organizing committee, Oscar Humberto Rivas Garcia.

The principal leaders of the party met to plan a series of activities aimed at unifying all the groups related to PID, both in the capital city and in the nation's interior.

Rivas Garcia believes that the party is not disorganized, since all its leaders are active and are working hard and enthusiastically throughout the republic. It will be no problem, he added, for PID to collect the 4,000 signatures required by the new law on political organizations.

## The Laws Must Be Respected

Mr Garcia said also that the laws now in effect are good ones and it is necessary to observe them faithfully, because otherwise the various aspects of the national situation will become more chaotic.

"We are sure that the government is not trying to deceive anyone. On the contrary, it is seeking reconciliation and instituting the election process as the best way of returning to constitutional government."

He concluded, "However, PID suggests that the election be held in the near future, that is, that the process of preparation not be stretched out over a lengthy additional period."

"A government elected by the people is more reliable, both in domestic and foreign relations. We are confident that once we have returned to constitutional government, the economic problems will be solved in a short time."

11,989

CSO: 3248/821

## RIOS MONTT ULTIMATUM TO REFUGEES IN MEXICO

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 17 May 83 pp 1, 17, 19

[Article by F. Pliego]

[Text] Ixcán, Chiapas State, 16 May--If you do not return within a month to take advantage of the amnesty "we will go in and get you," Gen Jose Efraín Ríos Montt has warned "the guerrillas who are on Mexican territory" over the official Guatemalan radio in a broadcast heard in this zone on 9 May at 0030 hours.

"The Guatemalan Government always has looked on us as subversives. That is why it destroys our villages and forces us to seek asylum in Mexico. That is why it tells us over and over: Little brother guerrilla, return to your plot of land. When they report having killed guerrillas, they in fact are talking of peasants murdered by the army or the Civil Guard," assert the refugees.

Here, in Chiapas, the Guatemalans are informed on the situation in their country by the broadcasts of The Voice of Freedom from Chicago, which has cleared their doubts about socialism, communism, the role of a guerrilla and that of the Soviet Union. The radio station sends them pamphlets and propaganda warning them "about the evil" of these.

The refugees write to the radio station asking questions of interest or concern to them. This relationship is a decisive factor for the aid that religious groups offer to whoever asks for it. Broadcasts from all Central American countries and sometimes from Cuba also are heard in this zone.

Radios are turned on at dusk and, according to taste, The Voice of Freedom and even Radio Venceremos and Radio Sandino are heard. Guatemalan stations can be heard throughout the day. "The strong transmissions" start at 2200 hours and sometimes much later. It is then when messages such as the aforementioned ultimatum of the Guatemalan president are broadcast.

#### They Are Well Informed

Actually, the refugees are well informed on matters that interest them. In spite of the information they receive from Chicago, they pay special attention when the radio talks to them from Nicaragua about peasant rights and agrarian reform or from El Salvador about the progress of the insurgents.

"We do not help the guerrillas. We do not know who they are or have anything to do with them. If we did, we would be in Guatemala and not here. We do not understand what they want. We cannot tell if they are going to win the war or, if they were to win, what type of government they will establish. We do not know them and do not want to know them," asserted representatives of the peasants I visited.

"However, the Guatemalan Government chases us even here. It tries to infiltrate spies among us...people come and ask us if we are well and how we are treated. They tell us that all is quiet in Guatemala, that we can return...but we know it is not true, that if we return they are going to kill us...they already killed some of our young brothers of the Puerto Rico camp."

A lieutenant arrived in Ixcán a short time ago and he forgot to leave "the spotted knapsack" somewhere. A "Guatemalan Red Cross" helicopter had arrived earlier with medicines and food. Many "pintos" [infiltrators] enter Mexican territory "looking for work" or disguised as smugglers to find out where refugees cross the border into Mexico, asserted Ernesto Sanchez, appraiser of the International Boundary and Water Commission [IBWC] assigned to this town.

When some of these infiltrators are detected, the Mexican military units that watch the zone are called to investigate and, if need be, to arrest the spies. The IBWC appraiser said "harassment is not lacking from the Guatemalan side, sometimes shots are fired from that side but they do not come in, not even the helicopter shows itself on this side anymore." Shortly thereafter, such an aircraft overflew the camp and no one--except the refugees--showed much concern.

Previously, Cavalry Lt Jose Luis Perez Dorantes, chief of the unit nor with the guerrillas, we neither know them nor have seen them. [sentence as published] There have been no incursions in this area. People come here frightened, but actually nothing is happening, absolutely nothing. They are all rumors that turn into snowballs.

The Ixcán garrison--all new personnel--arrived in town 5 months ago. None of the soldiers knows when they will be relieved. It should be recalled that it was precisely here that on 13 August 1982 a group of kaibiles [Guatemalan anti-guerrilla soldiers] entered 100 meters this side of the border "to shoot at the refugees." No one was killed.

The Guatemalan representatives reported that their country's army "always is very close to the border. In some camps they are heard whistling and singing. Members of the Civil Guard go into the Monteflor and Flor de Cafe camps to kidnap people....A U.S. congressman came here a short time ago to tell us that everything was peaceful in Guatemala, that we should return.

"A group of refugees arrived that same day, fleeing from the military. The congressman became convinced that we are telling the truth, that we are not lying, that the Guatemalan Government murders peasants and that to return means death.

"The truth is that we want to return to our country, but only when everything is quiet, when we can work without the fear that agents will come to shoot at us or to burn and loot our homes. Until then, we will not return."

## ALFARO'S LOSS OF SUPPORT CREATES NEW SCHISM IN PR

Guatemala City EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 4 May 83 pp 1, 7

[Text] A new schism has been created within the Revolutionary Party (PR) as the leadership of former Deputy Napoleon Alfaro is being ignored because it is considered that he lacks the support of all the revolutionary sectors. As a result, a "legitimate group" has been formed, they say, which has the support not only of the grassroots organizations, but also of the National Council of the party.

What observers who keep abreast of politics have noted, as they announced today, is that with the so-called political opening sponsored by the government, a number of aspirations have surfaced especially from old politicians who maintained a prudent silence while the storm raged, but who now are beginning to come forth in full swing.

Such aspirations and disagreements are noted in almost all the traditional political parties. In the midst of the National Liberation Movement (MLN) itself, as reported in several news media, a new group has appeared which tends to disregard Mario Sandoval Alarcon, the top leader of that public rights organization, and to have him replaced by Lionel Sisniega Otero.

However, some observers consider that this development within the movement is nothing more than a "smokescreen" in order that the MLN, as a party, will not be involved in the accusations that have been made against Sisniega Otero.

The sagacity and political experience of the top leader of the MLN, it was added, are unequalled among the new batch of politicians, hence when the time comes, Sisniega Otero and the supposed dissidents will return to the fold and present a unified party with the same mystique that it had at its inception.

8414

CSO: 3248/833

## RAILWAYS NEED 200 MILLION QUETZALS FOR TOTAL REBUILDING

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 12 May 83 p 2

[Text] Operation of the railways enterprise (FEGUA) inevitably will be paralyzed in about 3 months if FEGUA does not obtain financing of 200 million quetzals for rebuilding. Its budget is unbalanced, its tracks are almost totally destroyed and its debts exceeds 16.5 million quetzals.

FEGUA Administrator Col Jose Antonio Pilona Cordero yesterday said in an interview with a PRENSA LIBRE editor that the enterprise actually is in a critical and difficult situation.

In fact, he said, the hurricane-force winds that lashed Puerto Barrios in March destroyed the banana fields. As a result, FEGUA will not earn 300,000 quetzals a month, a critical amount required to complement its budget.

Paralyzation of the enterprise is imminent. Its situation can be termed to be of an emergency nature and if it is not given the proper attention, FEGUA will almost certainly become part of national history.

## What Is Happening In FEGUA

Colonel Pilona explained to this newspaper that the Puerto Barrios dock--almost completely destroyed by the February 1976 earthquake--and age of the tracks are the enterprise's principal headaches.

The newest track on the main branch line that goes from Puerto Barrios to Puerto San Jose is 50 years old. Therefore, the entire line is deteriorated, worn-out and cannot promise more years of use to the enterprise.

We should make quite clear, continued Colonel Pilona, that the Puerto Barrios dock requires to be built anew and not just repaired. This dock is the source of subsistence for the enterprise, but unfortunately the 1976 earthquake destroyed it to a considerable extent.

Now its platform slabs are cracked, its piles are separated from the slabs by almost 2 inches and the damage is serious. In other words, reconstruction of the dock is much more costly than building a new one.



Meanwhile, the tracks are worn-out and cannot have more years of use. Almost all tracks have to be rebuilt. According to studies made, 200 million quetzals are required to do all this.

#### What Happened in the March Storm

As we all know, the hurricane-force winds this past March caused damage not only in the capital but also in several departments. Izabal was not an exception, for the storm destroyed 80 percent of the banana fields which at that time were the principal source of earnings of the railways enterprise.

Transportation of bananas to Puerto Barrios generated over 300,000 quetzals in monthly earnings for FEGUA. This money was very important because it permitted the enterprise to have the funds necessary to pay salaries and contracted debts.

From 30 to 34 ships were loaded with bananas every month, but now they number from 3 to 4, and FEGUA will only receive between 40,000 and 60,000 quetzals monthly.

As a result of the storm damage, FEGUA has a deficit budget, and it should be made clear that FEGUA receives no money from the central government.

#### Contracted Debts

FEGUA's debts exceed 16.5 million quetzals, according to Colonel Pilona Cordero.

Payments are currently being made on 10 new locomotives that were purchased in Canada for 12 million quetzals, of which 9 million quetzals are owed. A total of 7,760,833.32 quetzals are owed to the Bank of Guatemala on a loan that the bank made to FEGUA some years ago to cover workers pensions.

In the next few days we will have to pay another instalment of more than \$1 million to the company that sold us the locomotives and a similar payment to the Bank of Guatemala.

It is obvious that the enterprise is going through a stifling period and there can be no thought of a future since it requires total rebuilding. If these problems are not taken care of, FEGUA will disappear in a couple of months, added Colonel Pilona Cordero.

If that happens, more than 2,000 workers will be out of work. I hope, he concluded, that an immediate solution will be sought.

9925

CSO: 3248/846

OSC REPORTS THOUSANDS OF PUBLIC WORKERS UNEMPLOYED

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 2 May 83 pp 16, 78

[Article by Alvaro Galvez Mis]

[Text] Various state entities announced that several thousand people who worked in various governmental institutions have been laid off as a result of the economic austerity policy put into effect in the last few months.

The OSC [Civil Service Office] told our reporters yesterday that it does not have an up-to-date figure for those people laid off.

Last year OSC received 1,570 requests from people who claim severance pay and so far in 1983 it has received 1,006.

In the first week of January, the mentioned department initiated proceedings for 112 laid-off workers so that the corresponding departments would take them off the payroll; second week, 113; third week, 105; 171 in the fourth week.

In February, first week, 186; second 115; third 105, and thus successively, because in public administration various departments have been eliminated and other merged into different sections of the government.

OSC says that it cannot have an exact number of unemployed in the government due to the fact that there are entities which are not controlled by that institution.

The requests for severance pay already mentioned correspond only to people who have budgeted positions or who have contracts.

Neither do those on the payroll figure in the figures cited, but it can be supposed that those discharged are numerous, because the government has ordered the budget cut, given the grave problems which the nation faces.

The number of people laid off in public administration reported by OSC can be considered conservative if it is taken into account that IGSS [Guatemalan Social Security Institute] alone laid off more than 2,000 employees, between

supernumeraries and regular employees; AVIATECA [Guatemalan Air Lines], 250; FYDEP [National Enterprise for the Economic Promotion and Development of El Peten], 300; Ministry of Communications, 300; Agriculture, 150, without taking into account those on the payroll.

#### Total government workers

Likewise, Civil Service announced that up to February 1982, the number of jobs or occupations which existed within the government framework reached 160,273, included those budgeted, those under contract and those on the payroll.

At present, according to officials of OSC, they do not have up-to-date numbers, in view of the fact that changes occur almost daily. Statistics are made up of payroll lists and other documents which are usual in the management of government finances.

#### A number will have to retire

Recently the government promulgated a ruling which obligates public employees to retire at age 65 whether by fulfilling the corresponding working time, or by a minimum period which is 10 years.

The department of organization of the public administration of OSC said that according to real data, at the moment, 1946 employees must retire.

The offices where these people work have the obligation of notifying the employees who must initiate the steps to become retirees.

9678

CSO: 3248/822

## SUGAR GROWERS CLAIM UNDERPAYMENT, CONFIDENT OF RESOLUTION

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 10 May 83 p 10

[Text] The independent sugar-cane sector had a loss of about 6 million quetzals for the 1981-82 sugar crop because it was not paid the 15 quetzals per ton of 175-pound cane, said Carlos Estrada, director of the National Association of Sugar Growers, yesterday in a press conference.

He said that contrary to what is established by the respective ministerial agreement (still in effect), the sugar mills paid them only 12 quetzals.

"So that," he added, "there was a difference of 3 quetzals per ton, which we have not been able to recoup. But we believe that we will receive that difference, since the agreement continues to be in effect and we sugar growers continue to maintain that the sugar mill owners have to pay us the 3 quetzals per ton that they owe us.

"Unfortunately," he stated, responding to another question, "the independent sugar grower cannot afford the luxury of abandoning his fields because we do not have the economic resources to turn to other crops."

He was also asked if the sugar growers could believe in another "gentlemen's agreement," to which he responded:

"I believe that there are still honest people in Guatemala. That is all I can say in response to that question.

"Now then, we want to express our surprise at the fact that the association of sugar mill owners is only now saying to the sugar growers with problems in delivering sugar that it is prepared to resolve them. This would have been satisfactory if the problem had been discussed and analyzed at the beginning of the harvest in the months of November, December and January. Many times we insisted that this dialog be initiated but we were never listened to.

"It seems very curious, then, that that sugar is being asked for in April and May, at the end of a harvest.

"We wish to take this opportunity to indicate that we consider it improper that the high-level commission continue to operate in the area of sugar and

sugar growing, because it was created by a ministerial agreement and the National Sugar Commission is a creation of a legal decree, which previously had the support of the Congress of the Republic.

"I believe, then, that it is the National Sugar Commission that should continue, for the sugar growing sector is better represented there. In addition, Agreement 173-83 is not being observed by several sugar mills, since it requires that they pay 9 quetzals per ton of sugar cane in advance, and it has happened that many of them have given advances of only 7 and 8 quetzals. That is, this agreement as well is being violated with the knowledge of the government.

"On the other hand, we are satisfied with the policies pursued by President Rios Montt, and we expect that he will remain vigilant in faithfully observing Ministerial Agreement 173-83, keeping in mind the fact that Mr Julio Matheu, economic minister, has said that "all of the laws will be fully complied with," which reassures us, for there are 2,000 families of sugar growers with hopes for the correct application of the law. This permits us to maintain the sources of work for large number of Guatemalan workers."

9746

CSO: 3248/838

## ENERGY SECRETARY EXPLAINS PETROLEUM INDUSTRY PROJECT

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 5 May 83 pp 2, 61

[Article by German Duarte Castaneda]

[Text] At no time has the government had in mind the nationalization of everything concerning the petroleum industry, therefore the architect Ronald Dent, president of the CACIF [Coordinating Committee for Agricultural, Commercial, Industrial and Financial Associations] has no right to think and express an opinion along those terms in the name of the state, Alejandro Contreras, secretary of mining, hydrocarbons and nuclear energy, said in his office yesterday.

Contreras referred most of all to the petroleum bill, which he said could go into effect within 2 months. He said that the law will make it possible to recoup most of the investment in the early portion of the lifespan of the oil field--that is, it is aimed at two of the present problems. In the first place, it increases the profitability. When the company is able to recoup the investment in the first few years, its profitability will be greater, something which does not happen with the current law and which has failed to stimulate investment by the international petroleum companies.

"On the other hand," he said, "by recouping the investment in a shorter period, the company reduces the risk that time represents. By the way, no one can tell whether there will be any change in the law in 15 years, not only in Guatemala, but even in Venezuela, Ecuador, Mexico and so forth. What is going to happen with regard to the petroleum companies in 15 years? Nobody knows.

"The other aspect that the bill addresses is related to the possibility of the payment of the income tax in Guatemala. This tax will make it possible to have a sort of compensation or stabilization of the profits of the companies inasmuch as the higher the profits, the more tax paid. Besides, double taxation on income (the companies also pay in the United States) will be eliminated, and that was a reason why they had already said they were not interested in investing in our country.

"What does all this mean? Simply that if there is going to be a reckoning of the investments, there should be more state control in order to be able to ensure that what is going to be recouped will be actually what was invested, without the need of more verifications. Moreover, there is a need of a

flexible system that will make it possible for investment and work programs to be discussed in a quick and easy manner, and for bureaucratic red tape not to hinder the process of petroleum operations."

As to PETGUA

Later on, Contreras mentioned the possibility of the establishment of Guatemalan Petroleum (PETGUA). He said:

"When the petroleum bill was drafted, thought was also given to the creation of a Guatemalan state petroleum company like most Latin American countries have. Of course, this option has advantages and disadvantages. It was considered that this legislation is of great national interest, and it was thought besides that its announcement would prompt divergent opinions among the various sectors of private enterprise, university, government and so forth, as it did.

"In that sense, consultations were held with the San Carlos, del Valle, Francisco Marroquin and Rafael Landivar Universities; the engineers and the lawyers associations; the Council of State; economists; the National Petroleum Commission; the chambers of commerce and industry and of construction, and a foreign firm of petroleum auditors.

"We got opinions from all those sectors and, naturally, some were in favor and others against, but definitely with certain reservations. There are very important opinions that have enriched the concepts of the law. In like manner, comments were submitted, all of high quality, and they have already been examined.

"The law," Contreras said, "is intended to allow the participation of private capital and the petroleum activity in the country, for we must clearly understand that Guatemala does not have the capital nor the mental attitude to undertake risks, and neither does it have the technical capability to drill on its own. Therefore, this is the reason why the legislation provides for the participation of private capital. Logically, for a law to attract the participation of that capital in a risk venture, it is necessary that the economic inducement be adequate.

"This bill has created a certain problem that is due to the scant knowledge about the petroleum industry, but it is healthy to know that the petroleum companies consider the economic aspect is adequate--an opinion that was expressed also by the engineers association and the San Carlos and Rafael Landivar Universities, among others in those sectors that were consulted. But there have been also contrary opinions about the economic aspect, and one of them was expressed by the Francisco Marroquin University, which asserts that the economic arrangement is worse than the current petroleum law."

"And the CACIF?"

"The CACIF says that the economic arrangement (investment and recoupment) is inadequate, and that the bonuses have to be eliminated in order to make it



adequate [sic]. By the way, it saddens me that there are some who argue that the legislation is intended to create the PETGUA, which is false inasmuch as it is a complement of an option.

"Concerning the PETGUA," he continued, "there have been opinions that are valid and others that are not, but an analysis is being made of those positions and a decision will be made on that basis. For certain, no sector nor this secretariat has a right to affirm that what it is saying about the matter is the truth [sic].

"It is worth noting that the arguments that what is being sought to create against wind and tide is the PETGUA are untrue, and they only show that the law has not been read. It is false that the creation of another PEMEX [Mexican Petroleum] is being sought because PEMEX is a monopoly that does not attract, permit or contemplate the participation of private capital."

"In sum?"

"That the secretariat is alarmed at the fact that the architect Dent is arrogating the right to express an opinion in the name of the state about the secretariat's intention concerning the national petroleum activity and our connection with the fuel import companies. The nationalization of any import, or of that activity which is peculiar to private enterprise, is not being considered. Specifically, that we are not seeking to create the PETGUA with the intention of eliminating all participation of private capital. On the contrary, we are encouraging it to invest in Guatemala.

8414

CSO: 3248/833

## BRIEFS

RETURN TO NORMALCY--Prof Rolando Mendez Mora, minister of education, reported that there has been a resumption of educational activity in the designated areas of conflict. As is known, in some regions in the west and north of the country, several populated areas evacuated their communities due to the various subversive acts taking place in those areas. President Rios Montt put into effect various programs that not only have given rise to the creation of sources of work for thousands of peasants but are also permitting an improved way of life for sectors that for many years were living in poverty. "That situation," explained Minister Mendez Mora, "has permitted peasant families to return to their communities, that is, they have assembled in new places being constructed by the government. All of this has permitted a resumption of education in the mentioned regions and it can be said that 99 percent of the schools are functioning with no problems whatsoever. [Text] [Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 8 May 83 p 2] 9746

CSO: 3248/838

## ANALYSIS OF ECONOMY FORESEES ACCEPTANCE OF IMF CONDITIONS

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 8 May 83 pp 1, 3

[Text] THE GOVERNMENT will have to accept the harsh conditions laid down by the IMF when the two teams meet again later in the month.

There is no real alternative.

The economy is in shambles; credit has dried up and the devaluation, steep price rises and further massive retrenchment which will follow from the IMF prescription are not to be blamed on the IMF, but must be placed squarely on the shoulders of the Government that has brought the country to such a state during its 18 years in office.

This is the opinion of knowledgeable sources who spoke to the Catholic Standard.

On the other hand, President Burnham announced at Port Kaituma, according to the Chronicle of April 27, that Government cannot accept the terms proposed by the International Monetary Fund as a condition to get balance of payments assistance.

Later, at the May Day Rally in the National Park, he again said that Government could not accept the IMF prescription, "but we will continue to have discussions because we believe in dialogue and we hope to make our point."

The sources, however, maintain that the IMF does not vary its prescription much, once it has diagnosed the sickness of an economy and determined what is needed for its cure, and is very unlikely to act differently with Guyana.

It is almost certain that the following conditions will be to a large extent insisted on before a standby arrangement for US\$120 million is signed:-

- devaluation of the Guyana dollar as compared to the US dollar of 66 per cent or more.

(NB: Other sources say this figure is more likely to be just over 40 per cent, as quoted in the London Financial Times of Mar. 3).

- reduction of Government spending on current account of \$200 million from about \$600 million

for the year. This would entail a) further retrenchment of public sector workers and b) the continued pegging of wages at the present level.

- reduction of Government spending on capital account from the present \$96 million for the year.

- removal of subsidy on sugar.
- increase in electricity charges by 36%.

- increase in the price of fuel.

- increase in water rates.

- increase in the price of rice.

- handing over of the Bauxite Industry to a transnational with a management contract.

- handing over of rice sales outside Caricom to large rice millers.

The Four Unions which did not take part in the TUC-sponsored rally - GAWU, NAACIE, CCWU and UGSA - in their May Day statement complained that so far the TUC

had not been involved in any discussions with the Government as to the terms of the IMF.

"It is well known that these terms usually result in grave hardships for the working people."

The Four Unions asked the TUC to ensure that there is no more retrenchment, no removal of subsidies, such as on sugar, no increases in essential services, such as electricity and transport and that there is an adequate supply of essential foods, such as flour, milk, oil and peas, especially in the industrial areas.

The PPP in its May Day Message stated that "the regime is poised to make another disastrous sell-out deal with IMF imperialists, including another devaluation of the Guyana dollar."

"The economy is malfunctioning with production and productivity

at their lowest levels. Retrogression will not be halted with imperialist dictation, lack of democracy, corruption and racial and political discrimination."

The TUC's Voice of Labour newspaper speaks of Unconscionable IMF Prescriptions. In its Page One Comment it states:

"The IMF at no time appears to be ever concerned about the destabilising and disruptive consequences of its prescription for a country."

"After it has finished laying down those prescriptions the onus rests with the Government to implement them in the best way it could even by the use of unconventional methods including extreme coercive action by the police and military."

## OPPOSITION FORCES UNITE AGAINST PNC REGIME ON FOOD ISSUE

Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 2 May 83 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] The fight of the Guyanese people for a regular supply of ordinary, essential food is no longer only a matter for political parties. Because these matters fall into their day to day routine, the political parties--of the opposition, of course--were first on the streets with the protests.

An important widening of the animal fight for a food supply took place on April 7, 1982. The Guyana Council of Churches called a meeting of social groups, including political, trade union and religious organisations to look at the crisis and find a creative response. Starvation and mal-nutrition were among the worst aspects of the crisis.

Then a political party, acting on the advice of a trade union, and with the support of another, launched a signature campaign to collect 50,000 signatures on food, jobs, the right to march and crime. To date this campaign has five sponsors. Far more than 50,000 signatures can be collected, but more hands need to get to work.

Guyana still suffers and the PNC continues to benefit, because many of us do not want the PNC to accuse us of joining something started by others who are in the bad books of the PNC. Like the colonial governor, the PNC likes to boast, "We keep them divided".

The PNC's isolation on the food question is growing. Sugar and bauxite workers staged unofficial strike actions on the question. GAWU held a day of protest. For some time, it seemed as though the PNC affiliated unions were not willing to go on record against the food policy of the ruling party and be labelled "political". But several things happened.

The Guyana Teachers' Association passed a motion at its recent Conference for the importation of certain essential foods. The GMWU in the bauxite belt approved a half-day sit down strike and an angry march around the food question last week. And as if the point still had to be driven home, the TUC in its born-again paper VOICE OF LABOUR demanded the importation of wheat flour in its editorial.

Who, then, is supporting the PNC? The army? The police? The People's Militia? The Guyana National Service?

If only they were free to speak!

**END OF**

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